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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-235
Tuesday
8 December 1987

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-235 8 December 1987

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 December Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan Mediating Egyptian-Syrian Rapprochement *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Paper Views Efforts To Settle Lebanese Crisis *[AL-BAYAN 3 Dec]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Gorbachev Promise, Syria *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
'Positive Change' in PLO-Syria Ties Expected *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Dec]* 2
Abu Musa on Prisoner Release *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Palestinian Official on Talks in Egypt *[KUNA]* 3
PLO Radio Notes Attacks in Nabulus, Halhul *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
Gaza Attack Detailed *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Sudanese Delegation Departs; Communique Issued 5
President Says Libya Blocking Reconciliation *[Paris]* 5
'Disinformation' Discouraging Refugees 5

Egypt

FRG Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 7 Dec 6
Makes Arrival Statement 6
Received by Sidqi 6
Meets With Mubarak 8 Dec 6
Central Bank Statistics on Debts to FRG 6
UN Under Secretary General Arrives in Cairo 7
Economic Talks With Yugoslavia, India Begin 7
Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Offers Detente *[AL-SHA'B 1 Dec]* 7
Libyan Front Urges Boycott of Tripoli Meeting 8
'Abd al-Majid at Consultative Council Committee 8
Notes EC Relations 8
Reviews Arab Issues 9
Comments on Iran 9
6 Fedayeen Reportedly Deported to Iraq *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 7 Dec]* 10
Papers Comment on Upcoming U.S.-Soviet Summit 10
Paper Urges Review of Syrian Role in Lebanon *[AL-AKHBAR 8 Dec]* 10
Mossad Plots To Kill Former Leader's Son *[AL-SHA'B 1 Dec]* 11

Libya

Reportage on Visit by CSSR Defense Minister 11
Arrives in Tripoli 5 Dec 11
Given Banquet by Jabir 11
Attends Joint Meeting 11
Law on National Military Service Issued 12

Morocco

Interior Minister Returns From Talks in Paris 14

Sudan

Al-Madhi, U.S. General Crist Discuss Ties 14
Crist Terms Visit 'New Page' 14
Al-Mahdi: Bases Not Discussed 14
Existence of Defense Pact With Egypt Denied *[AL-USBU' 7 Dec]* 15
Al-Mahdi on Kurmuk, Committee With Ethiopia 15
Reviews Domestic Issues 15
Al-Mahdi Meets With Armed Forces Commanders 15
Eritrean Group Denies Having Training Camps 16
Police Kill 5 in Clash With Neo-GUNT Group 16
Cabinet Dismisses Bahr al-Ghazal Governor 16

Tunisia

President Ben 'Ali Addresses Diplomatic Corps 16

Western Sahara

UN-OAU Technical Commission's Tour Reported 17
Foreign Minister on Resolution *[Algiers]* 17
Activities at Refugee Camps *[Algiers]* 17
Semara Province Visited *[APS]* 18
Commission Extends Stay *[Algiers]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

GCC Industrialists Meeting Opens in Riyadh *[KUNA]* 19
Draft Trade Law Completed *[KUNA]* 19

Kuwait

Pakistani Premier, Delegation Begin Visit 19
'High-Level' Talks Open 20
Trade Minister on GCC Integration Talks 20

PDRY

Sentencing Set for 13 Jan 'Conspiracy' Case 20
Government Views Financial 'Inconsistencies' 20

United Arab Emirates

Pakistani Prime Minister Begins Official Visit 21
Opens Talks With President 21
Received by Heir Apparent 21
Concludes Talks 22
Addresses Pakistanis in Abu Dhabi *[Islamabad]* 22
Military Chief Meets Counterpart 22
Junejo Departs for Kuwait 22
Soviet, Iranian Envoys Deliver Messages 22

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs 23

IRAQ

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message 24
President Chairs Meeting on Defense Budget 24
'Aziz Meets With Shultz, Makes Statement 24
Arrives in New York 24
Oil Minister Comments on 'Huge Reserves' 24
Oil Minister Leaves for Vienna OPEC Meetings 24
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 25
Iranian Losses Detailed 25
Communique No 2,942 25
Lloyds Says Cypriot Tanker Hit 25
Downing of 2 Planes Denied 25

ISRAEL

Shamir: No Comment on U.S. Retaliation 'Request' 26
Evidence Against Waldheim Sought From U.S. *[MA'ARIV 6 Dec]* 26
Protest Made to Poland on Statement 26
Ambassador in Mexico Meets Cuban Counterpart *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Dec]* 26
Ambassador to Rome Meets With Pope 4 Dec 26
Egyptian Military Liaison Talks Conclude 27
Rabin Meets With Jordanian Parliamentarians 27
Peres on Gaza Demilitarization, Summit 27
Shamir Rejects Peres Demilitarization Plan *[HADASHOT 8 Dec]* 28
Al-Shawwa 'Skeptical' 28
Prime Minister Comments on Gaza Stabbing 28
Rabin on Gaza Murder 28
Gaza Curfew Lifted; Most Detainees Released 29
Islamic Jihad Strong in Gaza College Elections 29
IDF 'Concerned' at Hizballah Attacks in Jazzin *['AL HAMISHMAR 7 Dec]* 29
Implications of PFLP Glider Attack Analyzed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Dec]* 29
Peres, Eban To Testify at Vanunu Trial 31
Refugee Camps To Become Permanent Sites *['AL HAMISHMAR 4 Dec]* 31
Finance Minister Nisim Presents 1988 Budget *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Dec]* 31

JORDAN

Finance Minister Announces 1988 Budget 33
Dudin Denounces Decision on Electric Company *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Dec]* 33
Minister Discusses West Bank Health Service 33

LEBANON

Report on Release of French, Other Hostages *[AL-SHIRA' 7 Dec]* 34
Sha'ban Proposed Saudi Arabia, Iran Mediator *[AL-SHIRA' 7 Dec]* 34
Israeli Overflights Reported in South 7 Dec *[VOM]* 34
Syria's Khaddam on Prospects for Unification *[AL-SAFIR 7 Dec]* 34
President on National Crisis, Peace Conference 35
Foreign Ministry Official on UNIFIL Finances *[AL-HAWADITH 4 Dec]* 36

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Sulayman Franjiyah 38
SDAR President Sends Letter to Al-Asad 38
Khaddam on Al-Jumayyil,'Partition Plans' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Al-Zu'bi, CSSR Minister Discuss Economic Ties 38
Industry Minister Talks With Iranian Envoy *[IRNA]* 38
Paper Cited on Expected Israeli 'Aggression' 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives SRV Women's Union Head 40
Commentary Marks Anniversary of Soviet Treaty 40
Construction Material Accord Signed With USSR 40
Narcotics Smuggled From Pakistan Seized 40
Najibullah Receives Tribal Representatives 41
Keshtmand Tours Jowzjan, Balkh Provinces 41
Clash Erupts Between Rebel Groups in Pakistan 41
60 Extremists Cease Armed Opposition in Balkh 41
600 Surrender in Herat 41
Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Views Mujahidin Alliance *[AL-ITTIHAD 30 Nov]* 42

Bangladesh

President on Opposition Leaders, Parliament 45
Detained BBC Dhaka Correspondent Released *[AFP]* 46
Opposition-Sponsored Strike Continues 46
Delhi Notes 10 Injured 46
New Curfew Hours Announced 46
Reportage on Visit of GDR Delegation 46
First Round of Talks 46
GDR Official Meets Chowdhury 46

India

Natwar Singh on U.S. Senate's 'Distorted' View 46
Further on Discussion 47
Commentary Assails U.S. Aid to Pakistan 47
Pakistani Buildup on Jammu Border Reported *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 28 Nov]* 48
Deaths Reported in Darjeeling Strike 48
Daily Says Gandhi Has No Plans To Visit PRC *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 27 Nov]* 48
Gandhi Discusses Sri Lanka With Colombo Envoy 49
Defense Minister on IPKF's Stay in Sri Lanka 49
Spokesman Welcomes Sihanouk-Hun Sen Agreement 49
Pant Inducts Soviet MIG-29 Into Air Force 49
Indigenously Built Submarines Within 2 Years 50

Iran

Majlis Speaker on Rumored Offensive, Summit 50
Khomeyni Approves Regulating Public Services 50
Tehran Cites Reports of Exiles' Roundups 51
France Suffers 'Consequences' of Embassy War *[KEYHAN 30 Nov]* 51
Musavi Opens Country's First Facsimile Center 52
Mohammad Hashemi Reappointed Media Director 52
Meets With Soviet Envoy 52
Construction Jihad Minister Leaves for PRC 52
Oil Minister on Falling Dollar, OPEC Session 53
Leaves for Vienna Meeting 53
Commentary on Larijani Talks at United Nations 54
Montazeri Meets Foreign Islamic Leaders 54
Montazeri Meets Judges, Disclipinary Officials 54
Musavi Promises More Facilities to Farmers 55
Talks Open With FRG Economic Official 55
Friday Imams Instructed on Majlis Elections 55
Defense Industries Official Interviewed 55
Commentary on Self-Sufficiency in Arms Industry 56
Armenians, Assyrians Ready To Join Fronts 57
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 57
Missile Hits Iraqi Plane 57
Second Plane Downed 57

Pakistan

Landi Kotal Garrison Hit by Afghan Missile *[AFP]* 57
Planning, Commerce Officials Leave for Delhi 58

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Indian Offensive Against LTTE 58
AFP Report on Fighting 58
Indian General Replaced 58
India To Airdrop Food 59
Curfew Hours for Various Areas Announced 59
EROS Group Calls for Tripartite Talks 59

8 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD081425 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Attacks on Pakistan—One Pakistani soldier was killed and some 24 people wounded when a surface-to-surface missile hit the border town of Landi Kotal, AFP reported, noting that the incident was the "first ever Afghan missile attack on a Pakistani garrison town." Regarding other border violations, the Afghan charge was summoned to receive a "strong protest" against a 5 December Afghan artillery attack on Ashakhel, north of Landi Kotal, during which four women and three children were killed, Islamabad radio reported.

Group Accepts Reconciliation Policy—A group of 600 men in Adraskan District, Herat Province, agreed to cease its "armed activities" and work for peace and reconstruction, Kabul radio reported.

Gulf Conflict

Kuwaiti Protest—The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to protest Iran's latest missile attack on Kuwaiti territory, KUNA reported. Kuwait radio broadcast the text of a message from the Kuwaiti amir to the U.S. and Soviet leaders urging them to take "positive steps" to halt the Iran-Iraq war, "which consumes lives and property and is threatening to expand."

Military Activity—Iranian aircraft bombed Iraqi targets east of Basra and west of Sar Dasht 8 December, IRNA reported. The agency also claimed that Iran downed two Soviet-made Iraqi jets in the Al-Faw area, hitting one of them with a Stinger missile. However, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied that any Iraqi aircraft were shot down.

Iran

Oil Policy—In remarks cited by IRNA, the oil minister confirmed that Iran will press for a price increase of around two dollars per barrel at the forthcoming OPEC meeting in Vienna. Stressing the need to compensate for the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, he said Iran will favor a production ceiling that will stabilize the oil price at around 20 dollars per barrel.

Approval for Regulations—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni approved the labor and social affairs minister's request for permission to introduce "obligatory regulations" for private companies that use public facilities and services. Khomeyni's decision was contained in an exchange of letters with the minister, broadcast by Tehran radio.

Israel: Gaza Strip

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Gaza Strip should be demilitarized and kept under Israeli supervision, Jerusalem radio reported. He also questioned the logic of establishing settlements in the area.

The PLO, in a communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, stated that one of its "heroic revolutionaries" was responsible for the recent killing of an Israeli in Gaza.

Syria

Warning of Israeli Attack—Reports of Israeli military concentrations in southern Lebanon indicate Israel's intention to carry out a new "aggression" in Lebanese territory, Damascus radio asserted in an 8 December commentary. However, Israel should realize that its threats "have become part of our calculations," the radio added, and any Israeli attack against southern Lebanon or any Arab territory will only create new sources of resistance and steadfastness.

Release of Palestinians—Syria has released nearly 150 supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat who were imprisoned in Syria since the 1983 Syrian-PLO rift, London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported. In remarks cited by Radio Monte Carlo, Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa confirmed that the Syrians have released 65 Palestinians, but he attributed this to his own intervention, not to any PLO-Syrian agreement.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi King Fahd received Jordanian King Husayn in Riyadh, SPA reported. The two leaders were expected to discuss regional issues, especially prospects for convening an international conference on the Middle East and efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, Amman radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan Mediating Egyptian-Syrian Rapprochement

JN071900 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1745 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Following his success in achieving some kind of rapprochement between Syria and Iraq, has Jordanian King Husayn succeeded in achieving a rapprochement between Egypt and Syria as well? The Egyptian opposition paper AL-WAFD believes so. The paper said that the efforts undertaken by King Husayn and Romanian President Ceausescu have been successful and have resulted in setting up a Syrian-Egyptian meeting in Amman next month. It seems that during their talks in Cairo yesterday the Jordanian monarch briefed President Husni Mubarak on the Syrian command's view on the possibility of holding an international conference early next year and on clearing the atmosphere between Damascus and Cairo without affecting the Camp David accords.

AL-WAFD added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has responded to King Husayn's move and has agreed to hold Syrian-Egyptian meetings in Amman under the auspices of the Jordanian monarch. The first meeting will be between Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser for political affairs, or Muhammad Abdallah, head of the Egyptian People's Assembly Foreign Relations committee, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

AL-WAFD also said that during President al-Asad's visit to Bucharest last November, Romanian President Ceausescu succeeded in convincing him to improve his relations with Egypt in order to facilitate the adoption of a united Arab stand on an international conference and force Israel to agree to the convocation of such a conference.

However, no Syrian reaction has been registered as yet to the Egyptian paper's report on a rapprochement between Damascus and Cairo.

Paper Views Efforts To Settle Lebanese Crisis

JN071653 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
3 Dec 87 pp 1, 7

[Dispatch from Muwaffaq Madani]

[Excerpts] Beirut—AL-BAYAN learned from informed Lebanese sources yesterday that during his recent visit to Damascus Jordan's King Husayn mediated to break the deadlock and to initiate a dialogue between Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and the Syrian command in an effort to attain a Lebanese national accord. AL-BAYAN's information indicates that Syria is now ready to respond to Jordanian efforts to have mediators shuttle between Beirut and Damascus in the near future in order to find a way out of the current dilemma. [passage omitted]

AL-BAYAN has also learned that King Husayn's proposal to Damascus and Beirut includes the following two points: The warring Lebanese parties must either meet in Damascus within the framework of a national accord conference, or Syria must sponsor a meeting in Lebanon of all parties there to reach a formula for national accord. [passage omitted]

The sources say that the Jordanian move to settle the Lebanese crisis proceeds from the Arab summit resolutions emphasizing the need to achieve national accord and stressing that Syria must assume a special role in this respect. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Gorbachev Promise, Syria

JN072100 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 7 Dec 87

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has stated that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has promised him that he will emphasize the Palestinian cause and the need to hold an international conference on the Middle East during the U.S.-Soviet summit.

Yasir 'Arafat also noted that matters between the PLO and Syria are proceeding well since the initiation of the reconciliation between the two sides thanks to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. 'Arafat said that the beginning of the reconciliation, which took place at the Amman summit, is an important step forward. Although he declined to give further details, he did say that Palestinian official Abu Dawud [not further identified] recently paid a 1-week visit to Damascus.

'Positive Change' in PLO-Syria Ties Expected

PM071511 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
3 Dec 87 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Syria Releases 150 'Arafat Supporters"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In the first notable practical development since the change in Syrian-PLO relations, Syrian authorities have released nearly 150 Yasir 'Arafat supporters detained in Syrian prisons since the 1983 Tripoli incidents. The operation took place over the last 2 weeks. Well-informed Palestinian sources expect the remaining detainees to be released within the next 2 weeks. During a telephone call with them in Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT was told by the sources that the next few days will see a positive change in relations between the PLO and Syria and also between the PLO and other parties in the Lebanese arena, including the Amal Movement.

The sources said that preparations are under way to reopen the PLO office in Beirut, which has been closed since the Israeli invasion of the Lebanese capital in 1982. [passage omitted]

The sources added that the efforts being exerted to repair Syrian-PLO relations, as well as PLO-Amal relations, overcame the last obstacle 2 days ago when the various parties reached an agreement under which Palestinian fighters withdrawing from east Sidon will concentrate in the areas and heights surrounding the two camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Miyah wa Miyah and the area of Sayrub. Prominent PLO leaders in Tunis expressed assurance and optimism that the countdown has begun for the restoration of relations to their normal course and that there will be more than one surprise at this level. [passage omitted]

Abu Musa on Prisoner Release

JN071932 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], who heads the Fatah dissident movement, stated today that thanks to his intervention, Damascus recently released 65 Palestinians who were detained in Syria in 1983. Abu Musa added that more than 100 release petitions had been submitted and that the Syrian authorities so far have released 65 Palestinians and not 165 as has been reported. Abu Musa added: We ask the Syrian brothers to release those who do not pose a threat to Syria's security and our security. Abu Musa denied that the release of the Palestinians has taken place following arrangements between the PLO command and Syria.

Palestinian Official on Talks in Egypt

LD071305 Kuwait KUNA in English 0946 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 7 (KUNA)—Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council Salim al-Za'nun said that the next stage entails a united Arab position such as the one reached at the Arab extraordinary summit. He told KUNA, upon his return to Kuwait Sunday night from an unannounced five-day visit to Egypt, that he found "complete understanding" for the issues he discussed with Egyptian officials.

His visit, the Palestinian official said, sought to clarify some of the issues related to the upcoming visit of a delegation representing the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to Cairo. The visit, set to begin on Wednesday, will be headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the Executive Committee. It will be followed by another visit by Chairman of the Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat.

Discussions with Egyptian officials, including the meeting with presidential advisor 'Usamah al-Baz, focused on the newly emerging Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian ties, Al-Za'nun stated. He expected that new Jordanian-Palestinian contacts to set a "new framework" for the next stage will take place shortly.

The discussions with the Egyptian Government, he said, also dealt with a problem facing many Palestinians who carry Egyptian passports, especially those who work in the Gulf countries. Those Palestinians with Egyptian passports are required to have a re-entry visa whenever they want to come back to Egypt. Al-Za'nun told KUNA that his talks in Egypt on this issue were very fruitful and that "pleasant news will be announced shortly."

PLO Radio Notes Attacks in Nabulus, Halhul

JN072041 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1813 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Communiques by a military spokesman of the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] One of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland used incendiary grenades to attack a Zionist patrol last night while it passed through Nabulus in the occupied West Bank. A jeep was burned and a number of enemy personnel sustained various wounds. The Zionist occupation forces immediately carried out a large-scale search operation in the city and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of connection with the operation. Our combat group returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

The enemy radio admitted this operation but, as usual, refrained from mentioning its losses.

Another communique issued by the Palestinian military spokesman says: Pursuant to instructions, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland detonated a time bomb by remote control as a car was passing near the township of Halhul in the occupied West Bank on 5 December. The car was carrying the Zionist terrorist Eli'ezer Waldman, a member of the Knesset and of the Zionist terrorist Tehiya Movement. The car was badly damaged and the terrorist Eli'ezer Waldman and his companions were seriously wounded as a result.

The Zionist occupation forces imposed a curfew on the township of Halhul and carried out a large-scale search operation there, arresting dozens of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of connection with the operation. Our combat group returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

Gaza Attack Detailed

JN072034 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1813 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Communique by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions, one of our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland yesterday evening attacked one of the Zionist

intelligence personnel with a knife in a cafe in the heart of Gaza. He dealt him deadly blows and returned safely to base. Huge enemy army and police forces rushed to the site of the operation, sealed it off, closed all roads leading to it, and carried out a large-scale search-and-arrest campaign against the Palestinians on the pretext of being connected with the incident. Revolution until victory.

Chad

Sudanese Delegation Departs; Communique Issued

AB051653 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1415 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Communique issued in Ndjamena on 5 December by the National Union for Independence and Revolution and the National Islamic Front of Sudan at the conclusion of a visit by a delegation of the latter to Ndjamena; read by an unidentified official—live or recorded]

[Text] The delegation of the National Islamic Front of Sudan [NIFS] led by its deputy general secretary [passage indistinct] (?Aganan Misael) UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] militant and head of the translation service at the presidency.

Both delegations held many working sessions that took place in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual understanding. The NIFS delegation met many Chadian figures, as well as the Sudanese community residing in Ndjamena. During their discussions, both delegations noted a great similarity of views on most of the issues examined. The Sudanese delegation was also received by Hissein Habre, head of state and chairman of the UNIR. During this meeting, the head of state and the NIFS delegation thoroughly reviewed the issues affecting the two movements and the two countries, as well as all topics concerned with a rapprochement between Africa and the Arab and Islamic worlds.

First, both sides agreed to create the most favorable conditions for promoting [words indistinct] cultural, economic, and scientific relations through exchanges of experiences and delegations. This is to serve their two peoples, who are united by age-old bonds.

Second, both sides called for sincere security, peace, and tranquility for their citizens along their common borders. They further recommended that their governments forbid the use of their territories to carry out subversive actions against each other's country or against any other country.

Third, the two movements pledged to do everything possible to carry out an objective information and sensitization campaign directed at their fellow countrymen, to better inform them about the current situation between Chad and Sudan. This will help improve the tense atmosphere between the two countries.

[Fourth,] both sides reaffirmed their support of the principle of the inviolability of borders inherited from the colonial powers.

Fifth, as for the Chad-Libya conflict, both delegations reaffirmed their preference for a peaceful solution to any dispute. They additionally condemned any form of armed aggression, no matter what quarter it comes from.

Sixth, the NIFS invited the UNIR to participate in the (?12th) congress, scheduled for January 1988 in Khartoum. This invitation was accepted.

Seventh, both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the similarity of their views and the atmosphere of fraternity and friendship that marked their meeting.

Eighth, at the conclusion of its visit, the NIFS delegation expressed its sincere thanks to His Excellency Hissein Habre, head of state and chairman of the UNIR, to his government, to the UNIR militants, and through them, to the entire Chadian people for the reception and fraternal hospitality extended to it during its visit.

Issued in Ndjamena on 5 December 1987, corresponding to the 13th (Abi el-Sen) of the year 1408 of [words indistinct]

[Signed] For the NIFS, Yasim Ul al-Imam

For the delegation of the UNIR and the National Consultative Council, Mahamat Nouri.

President Says Libya Blocking Reconciliation

LD042246 Paris Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Chadian President Hissein Habre has spoken about the Chad-Libya conflict only a few days prior to the Franco-African summit due to be held in Antibes in southern France. He discussed the state of reconciliation between Chadians. In his view, if this reconciliation is slow in coming, it is due to Libya:

[Begin Habre recording] To tell the truth, to a large extent the reconciliation has been achieved, or practically achieved. There are a few Chadians—Goukouni and others—who are abroad. We have never broken contact with them and we intend to continue our dialogue with them. We have not reached the stage of breaking contact.

We admit that things are not simple. We know the pressure and the trouble that our brothers are subjected to by Libya and its friends. We know that Libya and its friends need this Chadian cover. We therefore know the difficulties we face in the negotiations, but we remain optimistic; and the contacts and talks continue. [end recording]

'Disinformation' Discouraging Refugees

AB041815 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The repatriation of Chadian refugees has run into a roadblock. A disinformation campaign carried out in the refugee camps has been identified by Mahamat Yakoma, the chairman of the [Refugee] Reception Committee, as the main reason for the loss of momentum in

the current program. Who is actually behind this campaign? Chadian radio spoke with the secretary of state for interior and territorial administration, Mr Mbairaroua Ndeirebeu, about this issue. Here is what he told our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Ndeirebeu] We are currently suffering from an obvious open aggression against our country. It is being carried out by Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya. His ambition is to make his mark on Chad, along with its potential wealth. As far back as 1980, the enlightened guide, His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, had stated—and I quote—Libya's role is in Chad. The Tripoli government has sought to sow instability and confusion in Chad by all methods. These efforts sometimes take the form of armed attacks, while they are also sometimes political actions.

[Correspondent] So Libya is behind this disinformation campaign. Why does it pursue this policy at a time when national reconciliation has nearly been achieved?

[Ndeirebeu] Libya (?would like to tie down) Chad. This is because Libya does not want to see Chad reach a domesic settlement; that is to say, it is trying by all means possible to prevent reconciliation among Chadians.

[Correspondent] Has the Ministry of Interior, which heads the Refugee Reception Committee, yet adopted any strategy to thwart this disinformation campaign?

[Ndeirebeu] All the (necessary) provisions have been made for our brothers who remain in the neighboring countries. Many delegations have traveled to these countries to meet with our brothers who have taken refuge there. So, the government, which does not simply watch unconcerned, sent various delegations, as well as transportation, to enable our Chadian brothers who really wish to return home to to do so. Nevertheless, there is this problem of disinformation, which prevents these persons from deciding and returning to their homeland. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

FRG Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 7 Dec

Makes Arrival Statement

NC072108 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. Genscher will also meet with Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Following his arrival, Genscher expressed pleasure at this opportunity to visit Egypt, which, he asserted, has ties with the FRG based on friendship. Genscher noted that Egypt is playing a responsible political role under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. He indicated that his visit comes at a time when important international events are taking place. Among these events was the emergency Arab summit in Amman, which resulted in the resumption of diplomatic relations between a number of Arab states and Egypt.

Genscher expressed hope that the upcoming U.S.-Soviet summit will achieve progress with regard to existing problems in the Middle East.

He said that he will sign an agreement tomorrow on the rescheduling of Egyptian debts to the FRG.

Genscher stated that in light of its forthcoming chairmanship of the EEC in January, the FRG will attach importance to various developments in the region. He indicated that he will discuss this matter during his meeting with President Mubarak tomorrow. He expressed his country's interest in learning the Egyptian leadership's views on these developments.

Received by Sidqi

NC080829 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his accompanying delegation at his office this morning. Later, the official talks between Egypt and the FRG opened at the Foreign Ministry. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks, while the German delegation was headed by FRG Foreign Minister Genscher. The two countries will discuss the latest developments in the Middle East, as well as possible efforts by the FRG and the EC to give impetus to the peace drive.

Meets With Mubarak 8 Dec

NC081157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his accompanying delegation at the Presidential Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Martin Elsaesser, FRG ambassador in Cairo.

Central Bank Statistics on Debts to FRG

NC071727 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—The Egyptian Central Bank has finished compiling Egypt's governmental debts to the FRG for the purpose of the rescheduling agreement due to be signed tomorrow, Tuesday. The debt principal totals approximately 2 billion German marks.

The amount due for payment for 1986-87 is approximately 77 million Egyptian pounds, while the bank credits are estimated at 20 million Egyptian pounds.

FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is due in Cairo later today, will sign the agreement on behalf of West Germany. Egypt and the FRG initialed the agreement on rescheduling these debts in November, but the final signing was postponed until after the compilation of debts and bank credits.

UN Under Secretary General Arrives in Cairo

NC071615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, arrived in Cairo from Tunis today on an official 2-day visit. This visit is part of a Middle East tour that will also take him to Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. On his arrival, Goulding said that the visit is intended to complement the talks which he had with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when he visited Cairo in June this year. The talks will focus on the convening of an international peace conference, especially since UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is paying great attention to the holding of such a conference and to giving impetus to the peace efforts being made in the region, the UN official added.

Goulding noted that he and Egyptian officials will also discuss the Gulf war and the efforts to put an end to it. He noted that the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations is important for Arab unity and is in the interest of the peace efforts being made in the region. [passage omitted]

Economic Talks With Yugoslavia, India Begin

NC061338 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Economic talks at the level of experts involving Egypt, Yugoslavia, and India began today at the Ministry of International Cooperation in Cairo. The discussions will deal with ways to bolster and develop various fields of economic cooperation among the three leading members of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Yugoslav delegation is led by Sonarik, under secretary at the Foreign Trade Secretariat [name and title as received]; the Indian delegation by Huda, deputy trade minister; and the Egyptian delegation by Sa'd Bayyumi, under secretary at the International Cooperation Ministry.

A responsible source at the Yugoslav Embassy has stated that the three delegations are discussing the possibility of broadening economic cooperation and encouraging and facilitating joint investments in their three countries. He added that a good atmosphere currently prevails at these talks and that the three delegations are working to reconcile their views. The talks are expected to end tomorrow evening. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Offers Detente

PM071647 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 87 p 2

[Radwan Hasan Bakri Report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Welcomes Meeting With Mubarak"]

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has declared his readiness to meet with President Husni Mubarak at any time he wants—but with each maintaining his own position on the Camp David agreement—in order to coordinate and achieve the objectives of both peoples.

During a meeting last week with Ahmad Mujahid, deputy leader of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP], the colonel added: The restoration of relations between the two peoples must take place one way or another. At this meeting, the colonel hinted at Libya's readiness to supply the Egyptian western desert with water from its man-made river and link it to the Nile in an effort to cultivate the area as a step toward achieving the Arab wheat production program presented in a draft by the SLP.

The colonel expressed his sadness with regard to Egypt's position toward the ruling regime in Chad, which is hostile to Arabs and Muslims and which U.S. imperialism and Zionism seek to turn into a base for strikes against them. The Chadian people reject such a policy because it poses a threat to the security of Egypt, Sudan, and Africa.

Meanwhile, leading sources have informed AL-SHA'B that invitations have been sent to all recognized Egyptian parties to visit Libya on 12 December 1987. Following his meeting with all the opposing parties, the sources added, the Libyan colonel will be ready to agree to their requests in order to achieve the people's objectives and to solve the current problems between the two countries, among which is the resumption of transport links.

AL-SHA'B has learned that during the Yemeni revolution ceremonies a meeting was held between the late 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan [Egyptian SLP leader and journalist] and Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm [unofficial Libyan emissary]. During this meeting, agreement was reached on a number of points:

—The suspension of media campaigns between the two countries, as well as the suspension of counteractivities in Chad.

—The return of Libyan planes and the hostage pilots who had asked to be returned to Libya.

—An exchange of prisoners.

An unofficial venue has been agreed upon for concluding and signing the final agreement. However, no official measures have as yet been taken in this regard.

Ahmad Mujahid told AL-SHA'B that during his visit to the Jamahiriyah meetings were held with a number of officials at which political realism prevailed. They welcomed an agreement to contract a large number of Egyptian workers for various fields in Libya to resolve the problem of fees owed to those workers whose contracts were terminated in 1985, and to resume trade relations between the two countries since Libya is in possession of a huge surplus of cement and urea. The Jamahiriyah also needs woven fabrics and leather products. Ahmad Mujahid stressed the need to find a formula for maintaining such popular interests.

Col al-Qadhdhafi stated that Libya had requested that interests offices be opened in both Egypt and Libya. Libya has nominated 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Huni, former Revolution Command member now residing in Cairo, to head the office. However, Egypt has not responded to this request. The issue of releasing Egyptian prisoners detained in Libyan prisons was also discussed.

During the last week, official media services in Libya have been denying Libya's responsibility for or involvement in the intelligence operations publicized in Egypt recently. Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm informed AL-SHA'B of his readiness to come to Egypt to face any accusations.

Libyan Front Urges Boycott of Tripoli Meeting

NC061417 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1343 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has denounced Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's invitation to Arab opposition parties to meet in Tripoli this month for a dialogue on Arab issues. It stressed that such a dialogue with Al-Qadhdhafi would harm these parties and place them in labyrinths which would only result in problems. The Libyan colonel commits himself to nothing and does not respect his pledges to any party.

In an appeal issued today, the Front said that the Libyan colonel has become politically isolated, particularly after the Amman summit. It added that he is looking for a way to incite a media clamor through the Arab opposition parties. It expressed surprise that Al-Qadhdhafi is calling for a dialogue with the Arab opposition parties when he prohibits any form of organized opposition within his own country and even pursues the political opposition outside Libya, drawing up plans to eliminate its members wherever they are.

The Front urged the Egyptian and Arab parties to support the Libyan people, who are experiencing the tribulation of political tyranny and social oppression and who are deprived of the most basic human rights.

'Abd al-Majid at Consultative Council Committee

Notes EC Relations

NC062147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Egypt attaches special importance to its ties with the EC, both in its relations with each of the community's 12 states and in its relations with the community as a whole.

In his statement to the Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign, and National Security Committee, held under Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi this evening, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Egyptian move toward relations with the EC is based on activating Egyptian-European cooperation, gaining the community's support for Egypt's stands on regional and international issues, and securing markets with the community for Egyptian exports. This, he added, would enable Egypt to obtain the best conditions and technical assistance and would promote technical and scientific cooperation between the EC and specialized Egyptian organizations.

In his statement, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt gives special attention to its relations with the community in view of the fact that its members constitute the western half of the European Continent overlooking the Mediterranean, which is part of the Egypt's national security belt.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egyptian-EC contacts are continuing. In the last 5 weeks alone, Egypt has held several contacts with the community's leading states, particularly Britain and France, when it received the British foreign secretary and the former French prime minister. He added that Egypt will receive FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher tomorrow, Monday. It should be recalled that the FRG will chair the EC in January.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt's foreign trade with EC states represents 40 percent of Egypt's total foreign trade. He pointed out that within the framework of the third cooperation protocol, Egypt recently obtained $300 million in loans from the European Investment Bank, as well as $250 million in project grants.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that the EC states have agreed to finance a project for the reclamation of 30,000 feddans in Kawm Umbu. He added that Egypt is the largest recipient of EC food aid.

Alluding to Egypt's Arab relations, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the EC has welcomed and declared its support for the resolutions adopted at the Amman summit concerning the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and certain Arab countries.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt's relations with the Arab countries are pursuing their normal course within the framework of the balanced foreign policy that Egypt has been pursuing since President Mubarak assumed power. He said that Egypt's foreign policy is based on peace, stability, and development.

Reviews Arab Issues

NC062227 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reviewed the recent developments in the Arab region in the wake of the Amman summit resolutions on the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arab states. He said that the hoisting of 15 Arab flags in the skies of Cairo ended an extraordinary era in the modern history of Egyptian-Arab ties.

In his statement to the Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign, and National Security Committee, Dr 'Abd al-Majid reiterated Egypt's commitment to a pan-Arab policy that prevents any conflict between Egypt's interests and those of the Arab nation. He added that Egypt and the Arab nation are indivisible. He also pointed out that the EC states hastened to support those Amman summit resolutions which concern the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference, as well as those which concern diplomatic relations with Egypt.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister noted that Egypt's recent contacts with the EC reflect the sound, deep, and nonpolarized ties which exist between Egypt and the EC states. He stated that contacts are aimed at attaining a diversification in resources for arms, a transfer of technology, a boost in trade, technical and material assistance for participation in Egypt's development plans, and the EC's support for Egypt's stands on international issues, the foremost being the Middle East problem.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed the West European countries' concern with the conditions of the Arabs in the occupied Arab territories.

Referring to the Gulf war, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt harbors no hostility toward Iran and that Egypt advocates the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

Responding to questions raised by committee members, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid praised King Husayn's efforts to achieve Arab solidarity. He affirmed Egypt's welcome of the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement. He said that the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Cairo runs counter to the League's charter. He also highlighted the importance of the upcoming U.S.-Soviet summit.

Comments on Iran

NC071400 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt respects and is committed to all Arab charters and rules and has violated none of these, including the Arab League Charter and the Joint Defense Charter.

In his address to members of the Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that moving the Arab League from Cairo to Tunisia violated Article 2 of the Arab League Charter, which clearly states that the League headquarters should be in Cairo. Hence, any headquarters outside Cairo is illegal. The Charter must be amended, which requires the unanimous approval of all Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Libya was the only country to oppose the restoration of Arab diplomatic relations with Egypt and that Algeria has remained silent, not objecting to the restoration of relations.

He also stressed that there is no hostility between Egypt and Iran and that the latter initiated the severance of diplomatic ties with Egypt, claiming that it had received the shah as a political refugee, that Iraq has asked for Egypt's assistance, and that Egypt has responded to this request and aligned itself with Iraq. He noted that Egypt has called for ending the raging war between Iraq and Iran and for ensuring the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. He added that Iran is delaying the implementation of this resolution, which calls for a cease-fire, a return to international borders, and formation of an investigating committee. He noted that Iran had demanded that the investigating committee should start work before declaration of a cease-fire and determine the party responsible for starting the war. He said that the five major powers acknowledge Iran's responsibility for continuing the Gulf war.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Iranian counsellor in charge of Iranian interests at the Swiss Embassy in Cairo had exceeded his diplomatic role and carried out activities forbidden to diplomats, compelling the Egyptian authorities to expel him.

With regard to the Egyptian prisoners in Iran, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt has sent a message to Iran through the International Red Cross, but that Iran has not responded. Other contacts have been made concerning these prisoners, he added, with a country friendly with both Egypt and Iran, but Iran's position has not changed.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Soviet Union is currently dealing with Iran more sternly and firmly after finding Iran [words indistinct] to implement Security Council

Resolution 598. He added that President Gromyko had summoned the Iranian ambassador and told him that Iran cannot win militarily and must resolve the situation politically. The foreign minister added that Egypt rejects the Iranian course of action pursued in holy Mecca and the ensuing regrettable incidents which affected pilgrims to God's house.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid underlined Egypt's desire to fulfill its commitments and pledges to creditor countries. He said it would be very difficult to achieve results by holding collective negotiations between creditor and debtor countries. These negotiations, he said, must be bilateral, and each case should be discussed individually.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that after signing an agreement with the IMF on 15 May, Egypt has taken economic measures which are proceeding quite satisfactorily and these have led to the conclusion of bilateral agreements to reschedule debts with some members of the Paris Club. He added that there are two schools of thought with regard to the settlement of debts. The first calls for canceling the debts and their interests, while the second calls for reducing the burden of the debts, their interest, and their settlement over long periods of time.

Regarding the encouragement of Egyptian exports, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said we must depend on multiple and varied sources of exports other than oil. He added that Egypt has concluded [word indistinct] and barter deals with Jordan in many fields with an overall value of $250 million. He noted that the way is open for other Arab countries, particularly those of the Gulf, following the official promotion of relations with Egypt.

An extensive debate took place between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and members of the committee. The debate started when Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi said: We must seek to achieve the minimum level of self-sufficiency in food and Egypt must adopt the notion of uniting the stands of debtor countries and embark on collective negotiations with creditor countries to obtain the best results.

6 Fedayeen Reportedly Deported to Iraq

NC081026 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 7 Dec 87 p 11

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have deported six fedayeen to Iraq. The six people, who had arrived in Egypt in early September, had escaped from Israeli occupation prisons.

Papers Comment on Upcoming U.S.-Soviet Summit

NC052237 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—In their Sunday editions, the AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH newspapers show interest in the U.S.-Soviet summit, which is scheduled to convene in Washington on Monday. They highlight the messages President Husni Mubarak has sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In these messages, Mubarak urges the two leaders to play a positive role with regard to regional issues, above all the Palestinian problem, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Afghan issue.

AL-AKHBAR compares the ways in which the Israeli side and the Arab side deal with the summit. It says that the summit will result in gains for Israel and Soviet Jews. The paper notes that although there are no diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, correspondents from official Soviet television networks have pooled their efforts with correspondents from Israeli networks to cover the summit. Moreover, on the eve of the summit, and in order to reduce tension between the two superpowers, the Soviet authorities have allowed six Soviet families to emigrate.

AL-AKHBAR notes that these reports reflect the way Israel exploits U.S.-Soviet summits to its advantage and to ensure that no resolutions unfavorable to it are issued. In this respect, the newspaper refers to statements by Israeli Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in which he expresses his satisfaction that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Middle East problem have not been included on the summit agenda.

AL-AKHBAR adds that with regard to Israeli activity, the Arabs, with the exception of Egypt, have maintained silence and have made no efforts to urge Reagan and Gorbachev to discuss Arab issues. It calls on the Arab leaders to realize that superpower summits are not frequent events and that any decisions issued by them will have worldwide ramifications.

The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, however, expresses hope that the summit will discuss regional problems, especially the Gulf war and the Middle East. It says that the Washington summit must endorse the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, remove all difficulties standing in its way, and face up to Israel's intransigence and the obstacles it is putting in front of it.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the Reagan-Gorbachev summit is catching the interest of the entire world. Perhaps it will open the door of hope for the people of the world for a new stage and era dominated by peace and security.

Paper Urges Review of Syrian Role in Lebanon

NC080642 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2317 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has addressed the Arab leaders who agreed to the deployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon and who gave Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad unlimited funds to defend Lebanon and the Palestinian refugees, calling on these leaders to seriously reconsider the Syrian role in Lebanon.

In a commentary in its Tuesday edition, the paper asks whether the Syrian role has contributed to the preservation of Lebanon's unity and integrity and to the protection of the Palestinians, or whether it has become an instrument of oppression and a factor in the tearing apart of the Lebanese homeland, plainly antagonizing the PLO and openly attempting to liquidate its leaders.

The paper says that the time has come to dot the i's, cross the t's, and review the Syrian forces' actions since they entered Lebanon under the canopy of the Arab League. The role played by Syrians during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and their response to the ongoing Israeli belligerence on the coast and territory of that country should also be examined, states AL-AKHBAR.

The paper adds that if the Syrian forces have played the role Al-Asad claims for them, then why has Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat called on the international community to act immediately to prevent Israel from committing a new atrocity against the Palestinian people and their camps in southern Lebanon?

Mossad Plots To Kill Former Leader's Son

PM071645 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 87 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Israeli Attempt To Assassinate Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir Uncovered"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the real reason behind the departure of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, former President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir's son, from London for Yugoslavia is the discovery of a planned Mossad attempt to assassinate him during his stay in the British capital.

Available information indicates that the aim of this attempt to assassinate Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir was to take revenge on him in the wake of what has been said about his role in a major case presently being investigated. A bill of indictment is expected to be announced in the next few days.

It has been said that it was the Egyptian authorities who told Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir of Mossad's plot against him.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the Yugoslav Government has given Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir assurances that he will be given the right of political asylum if the bill of indictment were to accuse him in any way.

Libya

Reportage on Visit by CSSR Defense Minister

Arrives in Tripoli 5 Dec

LD051748 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Milan Vaclavik, the Czechoslovak defense minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was greeted on his arrival by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and the staff of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Tripoli.

Given Banquet by Jabir

LD061650 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, last night held a banquet in honour of the Czech defense minister, Milan Vaclavik, and the delegation accompanying him. Present at the banquet, held at the Equestrian School in Tripoli, were a number of officers of the Libyan Armed Forces and the Czech ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Attends Joint Meeting

LD062240 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Dec (JANA)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, attended the joint meeting held in Tripoli this morning between the Libyan Arab and Czechoslovak delegations. The meeting was also attended by General Milan Vaclavik, minister of defense of Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, and a number of experts and technicians of the two friendly countries.

At the start of the session, Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, welcomed Gen Milan Vaclavik, CSSR Defense minister, and the military delegation accompanying him. He said that this visit would contribute to bolstering cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Czechoslovakia.

Gen Milan Vaclavik, on his part, expressed appreciation for the welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation, stressing that this visit would consolidate the relations of friendship and solid cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Czechoslovak defense minister reiterated the solidarity of the people and Government of Czechoslovakia with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in their brave resistance to imperialist plots. He also condemned the imperialist and colonialist attempts to harm the progressive forces in the world.

At the end of the opening session, Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir presented a token gift to the Czechoslovak defense minister. Gen Milan Vaclavik also offered a gift to the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, a modern shotgun.

Law on National Military Service Issued

LD071214 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] In implementing the resolutions adopted by the people's congresses during their second ordinary session in 1987, as formulated by the general gathering of the people's congresses, people's committees and trade unions, federations, and vocational leagues—namely, the General People's Congress, during its extraordinary session of 1987—the following law has been promulgated:

Article 1: The provisions of the attached national service law will come into force.

Article 2: The National Compulsory Military Service Law of 6 May 1978 will be canceled, as well as all other provisions contrary to this law.

Article 3: This law has been published in the official gazette and will come into force effective the date it is published.

The Secretariat General of the General People's Congress, 1987.

National Service Law

Chapter 1: Liability to National Service.

Article 1: Every citizen who has reached the age of 18 and who has not exceeded age 35 will be liable for national service, provided he is sufficiently healthy. Persons more than 35 years old may be called for national service in cases of war, mobilization, emergency, or active service, by an order from the supreme commander. Those called up for national military service will be distributed among the principal services of the Armed Forces: the ground forces, the air forces, the naval forces, and air defense forces, or any other forces or military formations created in accordance with the rules specified by the supreme commander.

Article 2: National service will be for a period of 2 years in the ground, air, naval, and air defense forces, as well as in other forces and formations. The period of national service cannot be extended except in the case of war and then only by a decision from the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Article 3: Officers graduated from universities and higher institutions may be chosen for national service after completing the first training period. They will be chosen by a committee to be formed for this purpose by a decision of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Those chosen for national service will be granted the rank of captain for the remaining period. This rank will then expire after their term of national service has ended, unless they were called up in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article.

Chapter 2: Exemptions and Deferments of National Service

Article 4: The following persons are exempt from national service:

a. Graduates of faculties, institutes, and schools established for the graduation of officers, noncommissioned officers, or privates who will serve in the Armed Forces or the police. In addition, students from these faculties, institutes, and schools, on the condition that they continue their studies until they graduate. Should they discontinue their studies, the time they spent studying will be deducted from the period of national service.

b. All those who have served in the Armed Forces for a period not shorter than the whole period of their national service. Should this period be shorter, they will be enlisted for the remaining period.

Article 5.1

In time of peace, the enlistment of full-time students at universities, institutes, and schools will be postponed until their graduation or until they reach the following ages:

a. Students at universities and higher institutes, or their equivalent, until they reach the age of 26.

b. Students at secondary colleges, institutes, and intermediate art schools or their equivalent, until they reach the age of 21.

c. Students at general secondary schools and their equivalent, until they reach the age of 21. If they finish their studies and enroll at universities or higher institutes before exceeding this age, they will be covered by the provisions of Clause A of this article.

Article 5.2

If the student reaches the maximum age for postponement during the academic year, the postponement of his enlistment will continue until the end of the academic year.

Article 5.3

A student whose enlistment had been postponed should inform the recruitment center of the reason for the termination of the postponement in a registered letter. This should be done within 30 days after the date of the termination of the postponement, so that measures for enlistment can be taken.

Article 5.4

The people's committees in faculties, institutes, and schools referred to in Paragraph A of this article, and those in charge of these matters at Brotherhood Bureaus

and People's Bureaus of the Jamahiriyah abroad, should inform the recruitment centers once the student whose enlistment has been postponed ends his studies, graduates, or reaches the ages referred to in Clauses A, B, and C of Paragraph 1 of this article.

Chapter 3: The Organization of Enlistment Procedures:

Article 6: The commander in chief of the Armed Forces issues the decisions executing this law, especially the decisions pertaining to the following:

a. The formation of a body in charge of enlistment and the determination of its powers.

b. Dividing the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah into enlistment regions, determining and establishing headquarters for each of these, and defining their powers.

c. Appointing bodies linked with enlistment procedures and defining their tasks and the regulations governing the requests of those affected by this law so they can receive medical examinations.

d. Setting up committees specializing in the medical and technical procedures of enlistment and defining their prerogatives and the rules governing their activity.

e. The medical requirements for national service.

f. The rules for defining the priority of enlistment for those who satisfy the medical requirements.

g. The rules and procedures concerning those who satisfy the medical requirements for them to perform their national service and also the regulations for their discharge.

h. The regulations and rules governing complaints against decisions relating to national service and the explanation of procedures about complaints, their examination, and their resolution.

i. The certificates of exemption from and postponement and performance of national service that the recruitment centers give to whose who request them. These certificates bear the decision, the reasons for it, and the period of validity. They are to be issued free of charge.

Chapter 4: Calling Up the Discharged:

Article 7: The commander in chief of the Armed Forces can issue an order calling up all those who have performed their national service, or some of them, to receive military training every year. The appropriate time and place will be taken into consideration as much as possible so that normal activities will not be disturbed.

Chapter 5: General Provisions.

Article 8: The following citizens shall be governed by the provisions of military laws with due consideration to the provisions of this law:

a. Those which the recruitment center concerned decides to recruit—until the end of the period of national service specified in this law.

b. Those called up in accordance with Article 7 as of the time set for their presence at the military quarters assigned to them and until their discharge.

c. Those called up for medical examination or recruitment who fail and whose excuses are not acceptable [as heard].

Article 9: Unless he provides one of the certificates or forms mentioned in Paragraph 9 of Article 6, no citizen between 18 years of age and 35 years of age shall be given employment, kept in his job or work, granted a license to practice a vocation, registered in the register of members of that vocation, granted other licenses or an exit visa, have his passport renewed, or obtain an administrative certificate from the people's committee of his quarter, and so on and so forth.

Article 10: With regard to employment, the recruits shall have the following rights:

a. To apply for employment in the general administrative units, public companies, and public installations. The period he spends in national service after his employment shall be considered as a period on loan.

b. Priority in appointment to jobs provided he produces a certificate of good character of very good grade, at least, or a letter from the military quarter concerned recommending his enjoyment of such priority.

c. Those employees who have been called up shall have their original jobs or a similar job kept for them. He shall be reinstated in his work, provided he asks for this a month from the date of his release and is fit for the work kept for him.

d. That the promotions and bonuses due to called-up employees or their like during national service shall be kept provided they are not registered as deserters during performance of national service. The national service period shall be added to the period of work and shall be counted in the calculation of pensions or gratituities.

Article 11: The recruits shall be granted a token monthly payment to be determined by a decision of the commander general of the Armed Forces.

Article 12: The Gregorian calender shall be applied in regard to the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Chapter 6: Crimes and Penalties.

Article 13: Violators of this law or its executive edicts shall be liable to 3 years' imprisonment and to being stripped of civil rights for a maximum period of 10 years. The crime specified in the previous paragraph shall be considered a military crime falling under the jurisdiction of the military courts in accordance with the provisions of the military penal code.

Article 14: The period set for the lapse of the right to prosecute those liable for national service shall not begin before they reach the 35th year of age, unless they have already attained this age at the time the crime is committed.

Morocco

Interior Minister Returns From Talks in Paris

LD071401 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Rabat, 7 Dec 87 MAP—Driss Basri, Moroccan minister of interior and information, is back from Paris where he stayed on 3 and 4 December at the head of an important delegation from his ministry. Driss Basri's visit to France comes within the framework of Moroccan-French cooperation and the periodic meetings between the two countries' Interior Ministries.

Messrs Pasqua, Pandraud, Basri, and their aides discussed during two working sessions a number of issues including, in particular, those related to the residence of Moroccan citizens on French territory, the training of technical and administrative cadres, joint cooperation in civil protection, and the exchange of experience regarding decentralization and local associations.

Regarding the residence of Moroccan citizens on French territory, the two sides agreed on the necessity of simplifying regulations related to visas for resident students and those transiting French territory and for Moroccan workers in the EEC countries when transiting French territory. This measure is to be implemented at the beginning of January 1988.

As for the training of cadres, an agreement was signed for the exchange of trainee visits and the completion of the training of Moroccan cadres in administrative and audio-visual data processing.

Regarding joint cooperation in civil protection, it was decided in principle to study ways to create a laboratory on explosives and mine-sweeping techniques.

Viewpoints were exchanged concerning decentralization and local associations related to the French experience in regionalization, public transportation, and the quality of life in urban centers.

In conclusion, the French-Moroccan committees agreed to convene another meeting in Rabat in February 1988.

Sudan

Al-Madhi, U.S. General Crist Discuss Ties

Crist Terms Visit 'New Page'

JN061913 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 6 (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met here today with Commander of the U.S.A. Central Military Area Gen. J. Crist in the presence of Sudanese People's Armed Forces General Commander Gen. Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil and the U.S.A ambassador to Sudan.

Crist, in a press statement following the meeting said he reviewed with Al-Mahdi the bilateral relations and the cooperation in military fields between Sudan and U.S.A. The general commander of the U.S. Central Military Area described his visit to Sudan as a new page in the military cooperation between the two countries.

On the other hand, Gen. Crist discussed here the same with the state minister at the Ministry of Defence the special relations between the Sudanese and American Armed Forces and ways of their promotion in all fields.

Gen. Crist and the accompanying military delegation arrived here yesterday on a visit during which he will have talks with the Sudanese officials on the latest developments in Sudan and ways to strengthening ties between the Sudanese and American Armed Forces.

Al-Mahdi: Bases Not Discussed

JN061918 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 6 (SUNA)—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated that the visit to the Sudan by U.S. Gen Crist came within the frame of the normal military cooperation between the Sudan and the USA. He emphasized that no measures for organizing joint military manoeuvres or reestablishing military bases were discussed.

The premier said that the Sudan is firmly committed to the non-alignment policy and it will never deal with the military manoeuvres, adding that the US military assistances to the Sudan have decreased and "we are negotiating on how to exploit the remainder of these assistance". He added also that the US general was briefed on the dangers the Sudan is weighing.

The prime minister, who was speaking to the press, said that measures and preparations for recapturing Kurmuk were continuing and they will never be affected with any diplomatic efforts to be sustained in any direction. The premier has reiterated that the Sudan has no need for any foreign assistance to recapture Kurmuk.

On the other hand, the premier expressed his great appreciation for the efforts exerted by sisterly Egypt for having paved the way for the convocation of the Sudanese-Ethiopian late meeting in Kampala.

Existence of Defense Pact With Egypt Denied

JN071253 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1054 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Dec (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has once again declared that there is no joint defense pact between Sudan and Egypt. He stated that the visit of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi last month was confined strictly to mediation to arrange a meeting between himself—the Sudanese prime minister—and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. This was reported today by the daily newspaper AL-USBU'.

The prime minister added that what is in effect between Sudan and Egypt is a fraternity agreement. He also noted that a meeting is expected to take place between the Sudanese and Egyptian Governments late this month to discuss all common interests in the political, economic, security, and cultural sectors, within an agreed-upon framework.

Al-Mahdi on Kurmuk, Committee With Ethiopia

JN071200 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Dec (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has declared that the formation of the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian committee will be announced after the two governments both approve this decision. The committee, he noted, will be entrusted with discussing the details of the dispute between the two countries. It will also be given specific powers. The prime minister added that the announcement of the formation of the committee will also determine the date and venue of its convocation.

This came in press statements that the prime minister made yesterday. He also explained that the preparations to regain Kurmuk are continuing and that they will not be affected by any diplomatic efforts, no matter what direction these may pursue. The prime minister additionally affirmed that Sudan does not need any foreign help to regain Kurmuk. His excellency expressed his great appreciation for the efforts of fraternal Egypt to arrange the meeting between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Reviews Domestic Issues

JN071206 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Dec. 7 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has affirmed that [his meeting with] General J. Crist commander-in-chief of the U.S. forces in the Middle East comes within the framework of military cooperation between the two countries. The premier told reporters Sunday that his talks with the visiting U.S. general did not cover conducting of joint military manoeuvers with the American forces or establishing military bases. [passage omitted]

He further expressed his appreciation of the efforts exerted by Egypt to arrange for his recent meeting with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam in Kampala. The prime minister declined to elaborate on the results of his meeting with the Ethiopian president saying that all details will be discussed by the joint committee agreed to be set. [passage omitted]

On the banking system in country, the prime minister said his government was determined to pursue its policy of rehabilitating the system [and that] those found responsible for administrative and criminal offenses by the investigations in the banking system would be tried he added.

He pointed out that the creditor countries had agreed to take steps to enable Sudan to redress the defict in its balance of payments. The U.S. has agreed to provide Sudan with quantities of wheat worth 40 million [currency not specified], he disclosed.

On the substitutes for Sept 1983 laws Al-Mahdi said consultations among the different political parties had achieved a remarkable sources. [sentence as received]

On the lists of those who cooperated with the dissolved state security organ, the prime minister commented that the government had received those lists and would scrutinize them. He added that he would discuss the issue with attorney general later on.

Al-Mahdi Meets With Armed Forces Commanders

LD070006 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] This morning, Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and minister of defense, met commanders of the Armed Forces in the conference hall of the General Command of the People's Armed Forces. This took place after sessions of the conference held by the commanders. He answered questions asked by the commanders of the Armed Forces on the current situation, public welfare, and the Armed Forces.

During the meeting, his excellency also touched on recent talks he held with the Ethiopian president in Kampala, and the agreement of the two sides to form a joint committee for discussing all problems hampering Ethiopian-Sudanese relations.

It should be noted that the commanders' conference began its sessions on 30 November and discussed several proposals and military working papers. These were submitted by the administration corps, the supply corps, the cooperative establishment, military intelligence, the compulsory services corps, and the office of officers

affairs. The conference came up with a number of resolutions and directives that will be submitted in their final form at the final session tomorrow morning, Sunday. A gift was presented to the defense minister on the occasion of the convening of the conference.

Eritrean Group Denies Having Training Camps

JN071246 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Dec (SUNA)—The Eritrean Liberation Front-Unified Organization has affirmed its full respect for international treaties and conventions on refugees. It also strongly denied it had any training camps in Sudan for the Eritrean revolution.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said today that the Unified Organization criticized the propaganda campaign that is currently being launched by certain newspapers in conjunction with the Ethiopian plan to undermine Sudanese-Eritrean relations. The organization expressed its great appreciation to the Sudanese people for their hosting of Eritrean refugees. The Unified Organization also explained that the presence of Eritrean refugees in Sudan is governed by international conventions and supervised by humanitarian organizations under the Sudanese high commissioner for refugees. The organization noted that the campaigns which discuss the Eritrean presence in the country are aimed at misleading Sudanese public opinion and diverting its attention from confronting the Ethiopian aggression.

Police Kill 5 in Clash With Neo-GUNT Group

JN051837 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec. 5 (SUNA)—Five members of an armed group were killed, one arrested and two Land Rovers loaded with weapons were seized when a Darfur region western Sudan police force lately attacked the armed group at the western border area of Wadi Salim, the independent bi-weekly AL-ADWA' Saturday [5 December] reported.

The paper said the fighting in which a policeman was injured resulted in the seizure of great quantity of light weapons ammunition and 20 thousand U.S. dollars and 30 thousand Libyan dinars besides food items and maps, all belonging to the said group.

The paper which did not identify its sources nor mention the date of this operation which it described as "one of the big operations" claimed that the gang was a part of Ibn Oumar [Neo-GUNT] group, leader of one of the Chadian anti-government factions, which is a pro-Libyan faction. The paper said the seized weapons and food supplies were believed to be on its [as received] way to another group at fighting.

Cabinet Dismisses Bahr al-Ghazal Governor

JN040659 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Dec (SUNA)—Today the Cabinet issued a decree relieving William Akol Deng [name as received] from his post as governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Province. The Bahr al-Ghazal governor was accused of corruption and was suspended from his position at the request of the minister of presidential affairs. William Akol Deng belongs to the Southern Sudanese Political Association—the wing of Aldo Ago, minister of transportation and communications.

Tunisia

President Ben 'Ali Addresses Diplomatic Corps

LD071443 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben 'Ali during his meeting with members of the foreign diplomatic corps in Tunisia; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. His excellency the dean of the diplomatic corps, their excellencies the ambassadors: I wish to welcome you and to express to you my deep pleasure at receiving you today here at the presidency of the Republic. I was very much moved by the speech delivered by the dean on his own behalf and on your behalf which he filled with kind words and noble feelings toward Tunisia and its people and toward us personally. Please accept my sincere thanks and gratitude. [passage omitted]

Tunisia has embarked on a decisive change in the course of its contemporary history but without negating its past nor the principles of its political course. This has helped to revive its faith and confidence in itself and to make it anxious to pursue a new course compatible with the political maturity of its people and responsive to their security and dignity and with the pride in citizenship to which they aspire.

In the 7 November statement, we committed ourselves to dealing seriously with these legitimate aspirations. We pledged to the citizens to respect their rights, insure greater justice and equality, and create favorable conditions for their participation, in a responsible and effective manner, in reform efforts and in the efforts of social, cultural and humanitarian development.

In our efforts to spread reassurance at present and in the future, we shall rely on learning the lessons of our past in all its positive and negative aspects and on benefiting from the experiences of countries similar to ours on the road of development and progress.

Dean and ambassadors, on the international level, we will continue with the same principles and concepts which have characterized our foreign policy, based on

complete adherence to the provisions of the UN Charter and to the principles and objectives therein, particularly those pertaining to peace and security in the world and to cooperation among countries, noninterference in the affairs of others, the protection of human rights and basic freedoms, and respect for peoples' right to self-determination, particularly the rights of the struggling Palestinian people led by the PLO and the rights of the Namibian people and their struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa.

As we declare our loyalty to all our international commitments, we affirm that Tunisia will continue its efforts to strengthen the ties of amity and honest cooperation which bind it to all countries in general and to your fraternal and friendly countries in particular.

Arab, Muslim, African, Mediterranean and nonaligned Tunisia will work sincerely to bolster the ties of effective solidarity among the members of the various groupings it belongs to and to support their just causes.

Out of its loyalty to its commitments to the creation of the edifice of the Greater Arab Maghreb, and out of its faith in the unity of the destiny of all its peoples, Tunisia will spare no effort in promoting the idea of the Maghreb onto the stage of actual realization with firm steps and on the basis of common interests. Tunisia will make a further contribution in the Arab and African arenas to eradicate the challenges that conflict with the spirit of the age.

Western Sahara

UN-OAU Technical Commission's Tour Reported

Foreign Minister on Resolution

LD061126 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Western Sahara issue: The UN-OAU Technical Commission entrusted with a fact-finding mission involved with holding a referendum on self-determination for the Western Sahara has been touring the Saharan refugee camps in Tindouf Province since yesterday. The inhabitants of the camps shouted slogans expressing their categorical rejection of the Moroccan occupation, as well as their demand for the withdrawal of Moroccan troops and the Moroccan administration from the occupied Saharan Territories. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the UN General Assembly has adopted a draft resolution on the Saharan problem. The SDAR foreign minister, who is attending the UN General Assembly proceedings, hailed the new triumph which the Saharan problem has achieved on the international scene. More details from Abdelhamid Boukraa:

[Begin recording] Mr Mansour Omar has stressed that the UN General Assembly reiterated its support for the international peace plan on the Western Sahara. It is a plan that entrusts the UN secretary general and the OAU's current chairman with continuing their efforts to prompt the two parties to the conflict, the Polisario Front and Morocco, to enter into direct negotiations that would culminate in a cease-fire and an agreement on the holding of a true referendum, free of any military or administrative pressures.

The Saharan official pointed out that the UN resolution stipulates the need for a technical commission to visit the Western Sahara in order to gain a truer understanding of the issue to aid in implementing UN Resolutions 40/50 and 41/16.

The resolution adopted by the United Nations, as the Saharan foreign minister asserted, paves the way for a peaceful solution to the Western Sahara conflict. The newly adopted resolution rejects the war imposed on the Saharan people, as well as the fait accompli policy of occupation of a part of Saharan territory. He added: We are reiterating our call on Morocco to stop imposing war and end its occupation through the use of force, as well as to adhere to a courageous and realistic stance in its policy by accepting the implementation of the peace plan set out by this resolution.

This would enable our Saharan and the Moroccan peoples to devote their resources to the edification of the great Arab Maghreb in an atmosphere of brotherly cooperation in accordance with the principle that every people should be the master of their own fate. [end recording]

Activities at Refugee Camps

LD061134 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Peace in the Western Sahara is the aim of the UN-OAU Technical Commission, which today continued its visit to the refugee camps of the liberated Saharan territories. Our correspondent Noureddine Taimi is now on the line:

[Taimi] Nothing has yet leaked out today about the work of the UN-OAU technical mission—not a statement, not a single word. The press was not even able to approach them; however, the inspection, the questions, and the visits continue at an unflagging pace. Early this morning, the members of the mission visited the Saharan 27 February School. The date 27 February, as you know, marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. Before going to join the mission there, the national and international press were invited to see a military exhibition which, by the way, was visited late yesterday afternoon by the military subcommittee of the UN Technical Commission.

Dozens of military trucks were lined up and countless guns of different calibers were displayed. There were also cannons, both fixed and mobile, as well as tanks and mines. In other words, all the war paraphernalia that the

Saharan fighters have recovered during one battle or another was on show. One should perhaps note that there was also war materiel of South African and Israeli origin in particular, which, to quote a Saharan official, proves the collusion between Rabat, Pretoria, and Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

In the afternoon, the mission went to visit the refugee camp at Ausert, where various questions were asked. The members of the civilian subcommittee, led by Mr Ibrahim Farah, wanted to know how the social, economic, and cultural life of the camp was organized. [passage omitted]

Semara Province Visited

LD071408 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Hafedh Boudjemaa (reception centre of the Sahrawi refugees camps), December 7 (APS)—"We paid tribute to the UN which have always been concerned by the fate of the Sahrawi people," the Wali (head of province) of Semara, one of the four Sahrawi refugee camps, Mrs Senia Ahmed declared on Sunday when receiving the UN/OAU Technical Commission, in a visit since three days in the camps, in the frame of the third step of its tour in the region.

In a welcome speech Mrs Senia indicated that the UN presence by the side of the OAU in Semara refugees camps shows the concern of the UN organization to look for ways and means destined at establishing peace in Western Sahara by restoring the Sahrawi people in its rights.

The Wali of Semara estimated in this regard that the popular welcome reserved to the commission constitutes a blatant evidence of the Sahrawi people's confidence in the UN which part in the defense of the just causes in the world has never changed.

The delegation of the UN-OAU commission in charge of collecting data for the application of the OAU Resolution 104 and the UN 41/46, had talks with local officials before discussing with Sahrawi of occupied territories who recently joined refugees camps fleeing the Moroccan oppression.

Commission Extends Stay

LD071936 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The UN-OAU fact-finding commission, which is now in Western Sahara to collect the necessary data to implement the international peace plan regarding the Saharan question, has decided to extend its mission until 10 December.

The decision is explained by observers as an effort by the UN-OAU commission to balance the time it spent in the Saharan occupied lands and the time it is spending in the liberated territories and the Saharan refugee camps. Here are the details from Noura Ben Cheikh:

[Ben Cheikh] The UN-OAU commission, which has been in Western Sahara for several days, was to end its visit today, 7 December. Saharan sources say that the commission experts have decided to extend their stay by 3 days in order to properly complete their mission, especially with regard to collecting data related to the organization of the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara. The UN commission, which is made up of a military committee and a civilian committee, is continuing its visit to the Saharan refugee camps.

The commission reviewed the conditions of the camps' inhabitants, who received it with demonstrations during which they renewed their categorical rejection of the Moroccan occupation and demanded full independence for the Saharan territories. [passage omitted]

We point out that the camps are the last phase in the program of the UN-OAU Technical Commission, which is to meet with Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, the SDAR President.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

GCC Industrialists Meeting Opens in Riyadh

LD062350 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 6 Dec 87

[By Yahya Matar]

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 6 (KUNA)—The second conference of Arab Gulf industrialists opened here Sunday under patronage of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and in the presence of ruler of Riyadh Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Gulf ministers of commerce and industry.

In an inaugural address, Prince Salman underlined importance of the meeting as manifestation of the aspirations of leaders in the region to strengthen industrial integration among the Arab Gulf states.

He noted that as result of economic cooperation among Arab Gulf countries numerous joint industrial ventures have been set up by the public and private sectors to attain sufficiency for Gulf markets and export to external markets.

"These economic feats," the ruler of Riyadh indicated, "will create the conducive atmosphere for transition from a stage of individual action to collective work". He explained the role of governments in the region of encouraging local industry by offering all facilities and incentives to set up a successful conversion industry.

Following the inaugural session, participants went for a short tea break after which they started their first working session.

The bi-annual conference will discuss several papers on optimum use of Gulf production capacities and improving profitability of joint economic ventures.

It will also discuss industrial coordination and means to raise competitiveness of industrial products in the local, regional and foreign markets.

The first conference of Arab Gulf industrialists was held in Doha, Qatar in 1985.

Draft Trade Law Completed

LD062339 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 6 Dec 87

[By Yahya Matar]

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 6 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Faysal al-Khalid has declared here that the GCC General Secretariat had completed a draft Gulf trade law and member countries will write down their remarks on it to the Secretariat within the coming six months.

He told KUNA, following the first working session of the tenth conference of GCC Ministerial Commercial Cooperation Committee, that the ministers agreed to allow the committee for studying rules of accountancy and auditing to complete its assignment.

They also asked the Secretariat to explore member states' opinions regarding the laws regulating commercial agencies to be tabled with the commerce ministers at their forthcoming session, he elaborated.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that the conferees endorsed minutes of the third and fourth meetings of the directors of Israel Boycott Offices Committee.

The participating countries, however, found it best to postpone entering executive talks with developing nations to conclude an agreement on comprehensive preferential trade dealings until their own economic laws on customs, protection and standardizations are completed, Al-Khalid pointed out.

He expressed hopes that economic meetings grouping all six Gulf Cooperation Council states of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman would continue to achieve economic integration and cooperation.

The GCC trade ministers, who are expected to conclude meeting here today, have endorsed the agenda tabled by the Secretariat in their opening session yesterday.

Kuwait

Pakistani Premier, Delegation Begin Visit

LD071531 Kuwait KUNA in English 1415 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 7 (KUNA)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo arrived here Monday on an official visit to Kuwait.

Junejo was received on arrival by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, and Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

He was also received by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, Minister of Public Works and Head of the Mission of Honour 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim al-Huti and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi and dean of the Arab diplomatic corps and Syrian ambassador to Kuwait and a number of ranking officials of the Council of Ministers and Foreign and Defense Ministries.

The Pakistani premier is accompanied by an official delegation that groups Ministers of Finance and Economic Affairs Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, Minister of Interior Malik Nasim Ahmad Ahir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani and Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud Khan and other officials.

A mission of honour headed by Al-Huti was formed to accompany Junejo during his visit to Kuwait.

'High-Level' Talks Open

LD080956 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 8 (KUNA)—High-level Kuwaiti-Pakistani talks tackled here Tuesday means of boosting the already strong bilateral relations in all fields in addition to current developments and other questions of mutual concern.

H.H. the crown prince and premier, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah received his guest, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mohammad Khan Junejo at the Council of Ministers at 11 am (local time) today before the official round of talks started 45 minutes later in the presence of senior officials from both countries.

Junejo arrived here yesterday at the final leg of a three-nation Arab Gulf tour that first took him to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

His talks in the two Arab countries reportedly covered the situation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan in addition to developments in the Middle East in general and in the Gulf in particular.

Means of upgrading relations between Pakistan and these countries in various spheres were also among topics discussed.

Trade Minister on GCC Integration Talks

LD071949 Kuwait KUNA in English 1644 GMT 7 Dec 87

[By Yahya Matar]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 7 (KUNA)—Minister of Industry and Trade Faysal al-Khalid Monday affirmed that the meetings of GCC ministers of industry and trade which came to a close Monday, has taken a step forward in implementing a number of articles of the Gulf economic agreement.

Al-Khalid indicated, in a special statement upon arrival from Saudi Arabia today, that the Trade Cooperation Committee endorsed several key recommendations to realise economic integration among Gulf states, like outlining the trade law which will be reviewed by GCC members.

The minister, who also took part in the seminar of the second conference for Gulf industrialists, noted that the conferees endorsed minutes of the third and fourth meetings for the Committee of Directors of Regional Bureaus of Boycotting Israel.

He pointed out that GCC states preferred to give a thorough consideration before initiating any negotiations with developing countries to implement the comprehensive system of preferential trade, until completing its own economic laws in respect to customs, protection and specifications.

The minister added that the fourth GCC joint exhibition which takes place Dec 6-16 in Riyadh included a variety of Gulf products, speaking highly of the quality of the products which were on display at the exhibition.

Al-Khalid expressed hope that those Gulf meetings would not be the last, to realise ambitions of the region's peoples.

PDRY

Sentencing Set for 13 Jan 'Conspiracy' Case

EA070042 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] A delegation from the general secretariat of the Arab Lawyers' Union arrived in Aden at noon yesterday to attend a session in which the Supreme Court of the Republic will pass sentence in the case of the incidents stemming from the bloody 13 January conspiracy.

The delegation, whose members include Brothers al-Sadiq al-Shami and Sayyid 'Isa al-Sayyid, attended the first session of the Supreme Court to examine this case. They were assigned by the permanent bureau of the Arab Lawyers' Union.

ANA has learned that representatives from other international organizations, as well as those from the Arab Lawyers' Union, will attend the sentencing session. It is scheduled to be held on 12 December. [passage omitted]

Government Views Financial 'Inconsistencies'

EA041042 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its regular session this morning, Thursday, in its meeting hall under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers hailed the 20th anniversary of glorious national independence. It commended the initiatives of the citizens and their mass organizations; the

efforts of workers in various sectors of work and production; defense and security establishments; and party organizations for making the economic, social, and political activities dedicated to this great occasion a success. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers also discussed a memorandum on supporting exports and activities that produce foreign exchange. The document additionally addressed the development of activities in the free area. They examined another memorandum which assessed the current situation of the free area. After a thorough discussion of this document, the council entrusted the higher committee for developing exports with studying the proposals presented by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply on developing and supporting exports, in accordance with the powers vested in it. This ministry then (?explained) the difficulties that it faces in dealing with certain matters related to the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The council also discussed a report on the major financial, accounting, and [word indistinct] inconsistencies. It then (?entrusted) the ministers concerned, each with his own jurisdiction, with explaining the causes of the discrepancies. These ministers were also tasked with explaining the question of general managers whose establishments were listed in the report of the central organ for control and accounting concerning Council of Ministers Decrees Nos 11 and 12 of 1986—which stipulate the curtailment of expenditure—and its Decrees Nos 108 and 109 of 1986. These concern the rationalization of fuel and energy consumption, the adoption of measures to curb the phenomena of deficits and embezzlements, and the adoption of measures to enforce the observance of financial and [word indistinct] regulations.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other issues on its agenda and adopted appropriate decisions.

United Arab Emirates

Pakistani Prime Minister Begins Official Visit

JN051830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1802 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo arrived in Abu Dhabi today on an official 3-day visit to the UAE. His visit is part of a tour of a number of regional states. [passage indistinct]

Opens Talks With President

JN061034 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, UAE president, held a meeting tonight with Mohammad Khan Junejo, Pakistani prime minister, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

The meeting was attended on the UAE side by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces; and His Highness Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid, deputy prime minister and Dubayy heir apparent. Pakistan was represented by Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Agha Akbar Shah, Pakistani ambassdor to the UAE.

WAM reported that during the meeting, Junejo indicated that his country seeks to bolster ties of cooperation with the UAE to benefit both countries.

The talks between the UAE president and the Pakistani prime minister will conclude tomorrow morning, Sunday. Talks will also be held tomorrow morning at the ministerial level between delegations of the two countries to review bilateral issues, regional developments, and the current Islamic and international issues that are of mutual interest.

Received by Heir Apparent

JN061445 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and supreme deputy commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has stressed the need to exert concerted and intensive Arab, Islamic, and international efforts to put an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war. This is due to the waste of the human and material resources of the two countries, as well as to the threats posed to regional and world peace.

The heir apparent made this statement during a meeting here today with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is currently visiting the UAE. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid asserted that the two countries hold identical views on the need to preserve the Gulf and Indian Ocean regions as regions of peace, security, and stability, free of superpower rivalry. He paid tribute to the deep relations binding the UAE to Pakistan.

For his part, the Pakistani prime minister reiterated the desire and continued efforts of Pakistan to bolster cooperation with friendly neighboring states in the region. He referred to the continuing positive contacts held by UAE and Pakistani officials, as well as to their unified efforts to benefit the peoples of both countries. The Pakistani prime minister also paid tribute to the great role being played in this regard by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, as well as to his persistent efforts to unify the stand of the Muslims and to achieve Arab solidarity.

Concludes Talks

JN061605 Doha QNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Dec (QNA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, and Mohammad Khan Junejo, Pakistani prime minister, who is currently visiting the UAE, held their final round of talks here today. The consultations were attended by delegations from both countries.

The two sides resumed their discussions on promoting the existing bilateral cooperation in all sectors. They also reviewed current regional developments in light of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and its effects on regional security and stability.

Zain Noorani, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs and member of the Pakistani delegation, called for ending the Iraq-Iran war between the two Muslim countries by implementing Security Council Resolution 598. In his statement, he added that the talks dealt with the unity of Muslims, developments in Afghanistan, and bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

The Pakistani prime minister arrived in Abu Dhabi from Saudi Arabia on a 3-day visit to the UAE as part of his current tour of the region.

Addresses Pakistanis in Abu Dhabi

BK070927 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has stated that the recent elections for local assemblies in the country have strengthened the government, which will now be able to serve the people with a new spirit and confidence. While addressing a large gathering of Pakistanis at the Shaykh Zayid Pakistani Cultural Center in Abu Dhabi yesterday, he noted that 80 percent of the persons elected are inclined to support the policies of the Muslim League. This reflects the fact that the people have renewed their confidence in the present elected government. He stated that the successful results of these elections are due to the large-scale development projects carried out by the government over the past 2 and 1/2 years. The prime minister also announced that his government will fulfill all its promises by 1990.

In commenting on the state of law and order in the country, the prime minister termed the present situation a direct fallout of the Afghanistan problem. The government is taking all possible steps to curb the activities of subversive elements, and, to a great extent, has succeeded in its efforts. This is because the number of these incidents has now decreased.

The prime minister noted that Pakistan has striven to resolve the Afghanistan problem peacefully and that there are encouraging signs of a possible settlement of this issue next year.

As for his talks with the UAE president, the prime minister stated that he held three meetings with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and noted that the UAE leader has a special relationship with him and a love for Pakistan. The prime minister asked Pakistanis living overseas to play the role of goodwill ambassadors for Pakistan in the countries in which they now reside. [passage omitted]

Military Chief Meets Counterpart

JN061437 Doha QNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Dec (QNA)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the UAE Armed Forces, met today with General Akhtar 'Abd al-Rahman, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces. 'Abd al-Rahman is currently visiting the UAE with Mohammad Khan Junejo, Pakistani prime minister. Sources in the Pakistani delegation stated that during their meeting, the two men had reviewed existing bilateral military cooperation and ways to strengthen it to benefit the two Muslim peoples. This is in light of what has been agreed upon during the official talks between the two countries.

Junejo Departs for Kuwait

JN071455 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Dubayy, 7 Dec (WAKH)—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left Dubayy for Kuwait today following a 3-day official visit to the UAE. During his stay, the Pakistani prime minister held talks with a number of senior UAE officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Soviet, Iranian Envoys Deliver Messages

JN051828 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 5 (GNA)—UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the GCC Ministerial Council Rashid 'Abdallah received a written message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with relations between GCC states and Iran.

The message was handed over by Iranian Ambassador Mostafa Haeri-Fumani during a meeting with 'Abdallah today.

The message is in a reply to a message sent by 'Abdallah following the joint meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council and the Financial Cooperation Committee which was held in Riyadh on Oct 24 and 25, the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said.

'Abdallah also received a message from the Soviet leadership on issues tabled for discussion at the United Nations [words indistinct] the developments of the situation in the Gulf and mediation efforts to implement

United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 598 calling for an end to the Gulf war. The message is related to the Soviet attitude in regards to the Gulf security and other issues to be discussed by the American-Soviet summit due in Washington on Monday.

The message was handed over during a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Feliks Fedotov who asserted that his country would support an arms embargo against any party that would refuse the implementation of the Security Council resolution.

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs

JN061433 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, departed Sanaa today following a visit of several days. During his visit, he met with brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN071126 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on bilateral relations and ways to develop them for the well-being of the Arab nation. Hassunah al-Lafi al-Shawish, chief of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Kuwait, conveyed the message during a meeting today with RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

President Chairs Meeting on Defense Budget

JN081210 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1151 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired an expanded meeting of the Armed Forces General Command and specialists of the Defense Ministry. The meeting discussed the Defense Ministry's 1988 budget.

Attending the meeting were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; the RCC members; the culture and information minister; the head of the president's office; the finance minister; the president's secretary; and the official in charge of the military industries committee.

'Aziz Meets With Shultz, Makes Statement

JN072040 Bagdhad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington today. They exchanged views on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf and the efforts being made to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Following the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said that he had reiterated to the U.S. secretary of state Iraq's clear stand which demands the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, as well as Iraq's readiness to fully implement it. He added that he will also inform the UN secretary general of this stand tomorrow, referring to his upcoming meeting with Javier Perez de Cuellar. Tariq 'Aziz expressed hope that the Security Council will work to implement Resolution 598 and reach a final disposition toward the Iraqi and Iranian stands on the resolution.

'Aziz pointed out that the Iraq-Iran war is one of the main topics to be discussed at the Gorbachev-Reagan summit, which will begin later today. He expressed hope that the two leaders will pay the necessary attention to the Iraq-Iran war during the summit meeting.

Arrives in New York

JN080839 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Excerpt] United Nations, 8 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in New York last night from Washington to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. They will discuss ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Comments on 'Huge Reserves'

JN071242 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kirkuk, 7 Dec (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim has affirmed that Iraq possesses huge reserves of crude oil and that Iraq is floating on a lake of oil which extends from north to south and from east to west. During a meeting yesterday evening in Kirkuk with the engineering, technical, and administrative bodies of the North Oil Company, the oil minister said that the record production figures achieved in the last 2 months are less than the required ambitions. He noted that Iraq's ambition is that the statistical data figures should continue to rise in a scientific way in order to achieve the objectives of the oil sector.

Oil Minister Leaves for Vienna OPEC Meetings

JN081233 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left for Vienna today at the head of a delegation to attend the 82d conference of the OPEC Ministerial Council scheduled to begin its work tomorrow, Wednesday.

In a statement to INA, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said that this conference is of special importance because it will discuss the situation and stability of the world oil market. He added that the conference will also discuss the preparation of a new agreement among the organization's members to determine production ceiling and quotas. He said that this agreement will replace the current agreement, which expires before the end of this year.

The oil minister pointed out that Iraq's stand toward this issue is clear and based on the principled position announced by President Saddam Husayn in his historic speech on 16 July 1986. He said this stand was confirmed during the meetings held with OPEC's tripartite ministerial committee during its visit to Iraq last October. He added that this Iraqi stand calls for giving equal production quotas to both Iraq and Iran.

The minister asserted: Out of its concern for the stability of oil markets and its support for OPEC, Iraq stresses its commitment to this basis with the condition that this

should be achieved through a comprehensive agreement among all the organization's member states—an agreement that should be truly adhered to. He added that any violation of this agreement would absolve Iraq of its commitment to production quotas.

The minister pointed to the issue of prices and price reductions which are granted by some member states, particularly the Iranian regime. He noted that these reductions have recently reached $2.5 per barrel. He also discussed the harm that these actions have caused to the stability oil market.

The minister explained that although Iraq is not a party to the current agreement in view of the fact that it had rejected the quotas that were determined for it, it has adhered to the price structure and fixed its oil prices in accordance with this structure. The minister also urged OPEC to adopt a serious stand to confront the Iranian regime's violation of oil prices.

The oil minister expressed the hope that the coming meeting will not exceed 3 days at the most.

The oil minister will also participate in the OPEC Ministerial Council's follow-up committee which will begin its meetings in Vienna later today to disucss the oil market situation and to submit a report on this to the conference. The Ministerial Council will also discuss several financial, administrative, and organizational issues, including the endorsement of the OPEC budget for 1988 and the election of a new OPEC secretary general.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN071422 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—Through their military activities in the operational sectors in the past 24 hours, Iraqi forces killed six Iranian soldiers and wounded five others. In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman said that during the same period two machineguns and three observation posts were destroyed, one ammunition dump and one bulldozer were blown up, and one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged.

Communique No 2,942

JN071722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,942 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continue to carry out their heroic combat activities. The results of these activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one enemy soldier was wounded, one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged, and one machinegun emplacement was destroyed.

2. One bulldozer and one observation post were destroyed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and four enemy personnel were wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. One enemy observation post was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

3. Three scoundrels were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

4. Three enemy personnel were killed and one machinegun emplacement was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 December 1987

Lloyds Says Cypriot Tanker Hit

JN072134 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The British insurance company Lloyds has affirmed that Iraqi jet fighters hit a Cypriot oil tanker called the ("Artimi") near the Iranian coast on 1 December. The tanker was carrying oil. Lloyds told the INA office in London today that the fighters severely damaged the Cypriot tanker. The tanker was abandoned by its crew. The Cypriot tanker is owned by the (Aftinay) Shipping Company and is being run by the (Nelsy Ogosan) Company. The tanker weighs 109,567 tonnes and was built in 1975.

An Iraqi military spokesman had stated that our fighter planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

Downing of 2 Planes Denied

JN081158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Iraq today denied Iranian claims of downing two Iraqi planes. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that these allegations are false and sought to play down the Iraqi Air Force's strong daily blows to Iranian installations and military targets.

Shamir: No Comment on U.S. Retaliation 'Request'

TA071856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The U.S. has strongly requested that Israel refrain from any military action against Syria following last month's hang glider terrorist attack in which six soldiers were killed. This is according to senior State Department officials. The U.S. Administration also called on Syria to take steps to reduce the activities of Ahmad Jibril's organization which claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack.

Prime Minister Shamir admitted there had been requests to this nature, but he said he could not call it pressure. Asked whether the requests had delayed Israel's response on the hang glider attack, Shamir said he regretted but he could not answer that. However, the prime minister stressed that Israel would act according to its own decisions. The prime minister was speaking this evening in Tel Aviv.

Evidence Against Waldheim Sought From U.S.

TA061915 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Dec 87 p A6

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[Text] Israel will do everything in its power to help bring Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to trial if incriminating evidence against him is found. At this point, Israel does not intend to start any proceedings for his extradition, a senior source in the Justice Ministry stated last night in view of the new incriminating findings which were uncovered recently. The Justice Ministry in Jerusalem has a dossier with material related to Kurt Waldheim's Nazi past.

Justice Minister Avraham Sharir last night instructed Hayim Klugman, the Justice Ministry's director general, to ask the U.S. Justice Department for the incriminating evidence against the Austrian president.

Minister Sharir's request is based on the communique issued by the U.S. Justice Department yesterday to the effect that it has convincing evidence that the Austrian president took part in war crimes against the Jewish people.

It was announced that the U.S. Administration's communique had been submitted to the international inquiry commission looking into Waldheim's past.

Minister Sharir added that Israel would continue to take action against Nazi criminals and congratulated the U.S. Administration for its initiative taken to this effect.

Protest Made to Poland on Statement

TA081043 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] The Israeli Government has submitted a sharp protest to the Polish Government. The protest is over the latter's intention to criticize Israel in a ceremony planned in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. According to reports from the Polish news agency, it seems that Warsaw intends to use the ceremony to criticize Israel's expansionistic policy. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem says that unless a satisfactory explanation is made, the representatives of Israel and of Jewish organizations will not attend the ceremony.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ambassador Mordekhay Paltzur submitted the Israeli protest to the authorities in Warsaw. Israel is now awaiting the reaction of the Polish Government.

Ambassador in Mexico Meets Cuban Counterpart

TA071111 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The first meeting of its kind between a Cuban and an Israeli representative was held in Mexico City several days ago. Dr Dov Schmorak, the Israeli ambassador to Mexico, held a meeting with the Cuban ambassador.

The meeting was used to exchange opinions and to examine the possibility of establishing informal relations between Israel and Cuba, mainly in the areas of economics and trade.

During the meeting the Cuban ambassador said his country was following with interest the thaw in relations between Israel and the Eastern bloc. He rejected the claims that his country is following an anti-Semitic policy.

The ambassador showed interest in the possibility of economic cooperation with Israel.

Cuba severed its relations with Israel in the late 1960's, and since then there have been almost no official contacts between the two countries.

Recently, following the thaw with the Eastern bloc, Cuba has begun to show interest in Israel, but it is not expected that this will lead to a resumption of relations.

Ambassador to Rome Meets With Pope 4 Dec

TA041714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Mordekhay Drori, Israel's ambassador to Rome, a short while ago met with Pope John Paul II. Our correspondent in Rome Yosi Bar reports that the tete-a-tete

talk lasted about 20 minutes. The two discusseed past and present relations between Judaism and the Catholic Church, as well as the issue of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican. At the pope's request the Israeli ambassador reviewed the situation in the Middle East.

Egyptian Military Liaison Talks Conclude

TA041819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Another round of talks between the joint Israeli and Egyptian military liaison delegations ended in Herzliyya today. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal notes that in the course of this round of talks Israel formally protested the incident in Rafah, explaining that Israel takes a grave view of this incident. Nevertheless, despite this official protest, a good atmosphere prevailed during the talks in Herzliyya. Among other topics, the problems of locating MIA's, the establishment of Egyptian monuments in Israel, and the establishment of Israeli monuments in the Sinai were discussed during these talks.

Rabin Meets With Jordanian Parliamentarians

TA032012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met yesterday with all the members of the Jordanian Parliament living in Judaea and Samaria. This was learned by our correspondent Arye Gus, who brings us initial details:

[Begin recording] Although the defense minister meets from time to time with inhabitants of the territories, yesterday's meeting was unprecedented. All the members of the Jordanian Parliament arrived at the Civilian Administration headquarters in Bet El and met with the defense minister The coordinator of activities in the territories and Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Civilian Administration participated. Among the members of Parliament who participated in the meeting were Tahsin 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Faris of Nabulus, Ribhi Mustafa of Tulkarm, and Edward Sa'id of Bethlehem. The member of the Jordanian Parliament from Ramallah, Nikula 'Aql, currently in Jordan, is the only one who did not participate.

The defense minister urged the members of the Jordanian Parliament to strengthen the pro-Jordanian elements in the territories in order to strengthen their support for Jordan. He told them that Israel will continue to support and strengthen the moderate personalities.

One of the participants in the meeting raised the idea of municipal elections. The political issues which were raised were an analysis of the Arab summit in Amman. On this subject, the defense minister said the summit pushed the dispute onto the sidelines. Members of the Jordanian Parliament in the territories made the proposal, under the assumption that the initiative is up to Israel, that an interanational conference be agreed upon. The participation of the PLO in such a conference was not raised at all.

The members of Parliament also raised general problems in planning, citizenship, and the direct marketing of agricultural produce from the territories to Europe. [end recording]

Peres on Gaza Demilitarization, Summit

TA071313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres proposes that Gaza should be demilitarized and kept under Israeli supervision. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shim'on Peres also addressed the issue of military service of yeshiva students, stating that the figures according to which 60,000 yeshiva students have not served in the Army are grave. Our correspondent in the Knesset Hayim Zissowitz has more details:

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today discussed the murder in Gaza, the Washington summit, and the recruitment of yeshiva students. Regarding the Gaza murder, Mr Peres said: Which is preferable and which is more dangerous: the 300 square km of Gaza, or 650,000 hostile inhabitants? Peres proposed demilitarizing Gaza and keeping it under our supervision. Do we want to give identification cards to Gaza residents? Peres was not enthusiastic about Jewish settlement in the area: What is the logic here? What are we getting out of the settlements in the heart of this area? What is the wisdom and what kind of Jewish ethics are behind the shooting of a girl student?

The Reagan-Gorbachev summit was also raised. Foreign Minister Peres says it is a historic meeting. For the first time, however, the East has shown more flexibility than the West—that comment was on the disarmament agreement. From Israel's point of view, however, another opportunity has been missed, because the Soviet Union is not as enthusiastic as before about satisfying world Jewish public opinion. Therefore, added Peres, I do not know whether our issues will receive the proper attention at the summit. He added, however, that efforts to renew negotiations with the Arab states will be made until the date of the next summit, scheduled for May 1988. If this does not prove successful we will have to await the people's decision.

Before turning to the yeshivas issue Mr Peres settled one more account, Minister Yosef Shapira's transfer proposal. Without naming him Peres spoke about the transfer nonsense raised by people who do not know what they are talking about. This is a demagogic disease, according to the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Shamir Rejects Peres Demilitarization Plan

TA081025 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Amnon Levi]

[Text] The prime minister totally rejects Peres' plan for the demilitarization of the Gaza Strip. A source close to Shamir said yesterday: "Peres' idea is vague and the timing of the proposal is unfortunate. It is inconceivable to raise such an idea a day after an Israeli citizen has been murdered in Gaza. The proposal might cause an increase in terrorism in the Gaza Strip. This is explosive material with which the terrorists can load their molotov cocktails."

This was a reaction to the remarks made by Foreign Minister Peres yesterday during a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee debate on the murder of Shlomo Takal. HADASHOT has learned that Peres' plan is part of a comprehensive political proposal calling for decreasing Israeli presence in the heart of the Arab territory in Gaza, in order to decrease the friction between the Israeli forces and the civilian population.

Al-Shawwa 'Skeptical'

TA080802 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Telephone interview with Rashad al-Shawwa, former Gaza mayor, by program moderator Ilana Dayan "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Dayan] Rashad al-Shawwa, former mayor of Gaza, sounded skeptical when asked about Peres' demilitarization proposal. Al-Shawwa told us he does not know precisely what Peres meant:

[Al-Shawwa, speaking in English] Well, if he intends that dealing with the Gaza Strip is going to be part of an overall solution for the Palestine problem that will end ultimately in complete withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip...

[Dayan translates the above and continues] If Peres intends for demilitarization to be part of an overall solution to the Palestinian problem which will ultimately end in complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Judaea and Samaria, then we have something to talk about. If this is only a cosmetic move, however, I do not think there is any point in dealing with the issue, says Al-Shawwa.

We told Al-Shawwa that yesterday, Peres asked the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee what is better for Israeli security: 300 square km in Gaza or 600,000 Arabs living there. We asked Al-Shawwa for his answer to this question:

[Al-Shawwa, speaking in English] It is better for your security to get out of the occupied territories and make friends with the Arabs, instead of oppressing them and forcing them to accept your rule, which is not acceptable in the occupied territories, so...

[Dayan translates the above and continues] We told Al-Shawwa that meanwhile another Israeli was murdered in Gaza. Does Al-Shawwa regard this as a sign of the growing strength of the fundamentalist zealots in the area?

[Al-Shawwa, speaking in English] Well, it is very unfortunate to have people killed here and there. But one must expect the natural outcome of a continued occupation and oppression to the people in this area.

[Dayan, speaking in English] So you relate a knife in the back of a merchant who came to merchandise with Gaza people as a natural thing?

[Al-Shawwa, speaking in English] I do not mean it in this sense. I mean that the continuation of occupation will...

[Dayan translates the above and continues] It is unfortunate that people are killed occasionally, says Al-Shawwa, but we must expect this as a natural outcome of the occupation. He goes on to clarify this remark: The residents perceive the Israeli merchant as a representative of the authorities. Rashad al-Shawwa says he denounces violence of any kind.

Prime Minister Comments on Gaza Stabbing

TA071339 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that although Israel has dealt a serious blow to terrorists in the Gaza Strip, Israel will have to continue to act to prevent future murder attempts. He added that yesterday's stabbing of Shlomo Takal in Gaza showed the real character of the terrorists and proved they have no other weapons in their possession. The prime minister was meeting with Rabbi Moshe Levinger this morning.

Rabin on Gaza Murder

TA071333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the murder of Shlomo Takal in the Gaza Strip yesterday was carried out against a terrorist-nationalist background. Notwithstanding the difficulties involved in the fight against terrorism, to date 80 percent of the attacks have been solved and the murderers have been punished. Yitzhaq Rabin was replying to questions by seniors in Blich High School in Ramat Gan. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports on his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Clearly, this murder was carried out against a terrorist-nationalist background, perhaps even a nationalist-religious one, and is part of the grave phenomenon of terrorist attacks from within the territories. In the wake of the murder, a curfew was imposed on the area—for 48 hours, at this point—in a bid to gather as much information as possible about the perpetrators. I would like to say that notwithstanding the difficulties in the fight against terrorism, to date 80 percent of the attacks have been solved and the culprits have been found.

[Tzur] When asked how the Defense Ministry is preparing for the possibility that an Arab country might use chemical weapons against the civilian population, Rabin replied that there are at least two Arab countries with the capability of using chemical weapons.

[Rabin] Syria has a certain capability in terms of chemical weapons. The same holds true for Iraq, and there is another country whose name I will not divulge. Each Arab country must know that any deviation from the Geneva Charter banning the use of chemical weapons would bring upon it very serious trouble and a retaliation seven times as strong. Before even thinking of initiating a war—certainly when it comes to using weapons banned by international law and the Geneva Charter—every Arab leader must know that the blow his people and he himself would suffer would be umpteen times stronger than what he estimates today.

[Tzur] When asked by a female student whether there was no room for exercising ministerial responsibility in the wake of the hang glider attack, Minister Rabin said it should be exercised when the incident is not confined to one specific area and has an effect on Israel's security.

[Rabin] Were the IDF caught by surprise by a large military operation, were a serious security breach to occur, were somebody in the government—say, the defense minister—to initiate a war that failed to achieve its objectives, or were an incident of national or international dimensions to occur that absolutely contradicted national norms, then there would be reason to demand that conclusions be drawn but not to demand that ministerial responsibility be exercised, because it is being exercised all the time. There are tools for drawing conclusions: either the minister or the government resigns or a state commission of inquiry is appointed which has the authority to draw conclusions. [end recording]

Gaza Curfew Lifted; Most Detainees Released

TA080716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew on the center of Gaza was lifted this morning. Normal commerce has also resumed in the city's center. Most of the people detained following the murder 2 days ago have already been released, and only a few are still being interrogated.

Islamic Jihad Strong in Gaza College Elections

TA071913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The radical Muslim supporters of Islamic Jihad increased their strength in yesterday's elections to the student association of the Islamic College in Gaza. Islamic Jihad is responsible for the murder of several Israelis. Islamic Jihad members attained 15 percent of the vote, a 5 percent increase over last year's elections.

There was a slight decrease in the power of Muslim Brotherhood supporters, but they managed to retain their majority by obtaining 60 percent of the vote. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

IDF 'Concerned' at Hizballah Attacks in Jazzin

TA071015 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The IDF is concerned about the Shi'ite Hizballah organization's continuous attempts to attack targets manned by Lahd's force in the vicinity of Jazzin in Lebanon.

For a long time it has been feared that Hizballah is planning massive attacks on the Jazzin area, which is considered the "soft underbelly" of the Christians in Lebanon. Jazzin is considered a strategic area which controls important routes, and there are fears that it will be conquered.

As reported in the past, Lahd's forces in Jazzin number approximately 250 fighters who possess a small number of tanks.

Implications of PFLP Glider Attack Analyzed

TA041626 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 87 p 5

[Commentary by Hirsh Goodman: "The Question of Retaliation"]

[Text] A cartoonist might have depicted last week's events on the northern border with two boxes: the first showing a kite propelled by a lawn mower coming in one direction; the second, waves of shophisticated warplanes with Israeli markings flying in the other. David had wounded Goliath, and Israeli retaliation was considered inevitable.

Indeed, in the immediate aftermath of the debate in which a lone terrorist killed six soldiers and wounded seven others, the question was not if, but where, Israel would strike back.

The terrorist, a member of Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, had taken off from a strip in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley. But it was against Syria that Israel pointed an accusing finger.

Within hours of the attack, Prime Minister Shamir, Defence Minister Rabin and Chief of the General Staff [COGS] Shomron all went out of their way to implicate Syria. The terrorist had been trained at a base near Damascus, they said, adding that Jibril's organization was trained, supported, equipped and directed by the Syrians, leaving the impression that Syria could be on the receiving end of Israeli wrath in the not too distant future.

The statements, however, were not necessarily to be interpreted as harbingers of retaliation. After all, one does not usually warn one's enemy of one's intentions. It can be assumed that if Israel had actually intended to attack Syria, or Jibril's camps in Syrian-controlled territory, the country's leadership would have kept quiet about it.

The intention, probably, was to make Damascus sufficiently nervous to restrain Jibril from executing any others attacks he may have had pending, especially along Israel's northern border. That such attacks were in the pipeline is no secret, and were indeed alluded to by Rav-Aluf [COGS] Shomron in his meeting with the military press on the day of the affair.

Over a week has passed, and we have yet to retaliate. Mindful, however, that Israel's policy has consistently been to do the unexpected, at a time and place of its choosing, terrorists from Sidon to Syria are reported to be still on the alert. From their point of view, Israel had sustained a heavy bow—direct attack on a military base, with painful losses—that could not go unanswered. Whether their expectations materialize remains to be seen, as does the nature and scope of the response, if there is one.

Retaliation is not without risks, and cannot be executed automatically. Especially in the given situation, where it is in Israel's clear interest to keep the northern front stable and not risk a war with Syria that would serve little purpose other than to undermine the economic and strategic stability this country is now enjoying.

The risk of escalation is real, even if Israel were to limit its strike against Jibril's bases in the Al-Biqa'. To do this, Israeli aircraft would have to enter the protective envelope of the array of Syrian anti-aircraft missiles deployed on the Syrian-Lebanese border—missiles the Syrians can be assumed ready to use in protecting their surrogate from Israeli attack. That must be the assumption of any prudent military planner, with the range of consequences clearly understood.

There are two separate issues that have to be considered: containing and punishing Jibril; and potential confrontation with the Syrians.

The most effective response to Jibril is probably the response we will never hear about—the war in the shadows that, if we are to believe the military's statistics, has thus far succeeded in precluding 99 per cent of all attacks from the north before they are launched.

By working quietly and consistently, by dictating both the means and the place of confrontation, by improving defensive measures, Israel can achieve as mush by this method—if not more—as by random bombardment that risks aircraft and crew, as well as international comdemnation and our relations with the Druze and Shi'ites in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

The risk of confrontation with the Syrians, though possible, is not to be considered inevitable. While President Al-Asad will certainly be under pressure to use his missiles in protecting Jibril should Israel indeed attack in the Al-Biqa', he would have good reason to hesitate.

Just as Israel had no way of predicting the end result of a sequence of events over which it has little control should Al-Asad decide on confrontation, so Al-Asad has little control over what Israel may do. He has to take into account that Israel may want to use this opportunity to settle other accounts.

Al-Asad is at the weakest point of his career. His obstinate support for Iran, notwithstanding the current attempts by Jordan's King Husayn to mend the rift between Syria and Iraq, has kept him isolated in the Arab world. Arab aid has dried up and Syria's economy is in well-documented turmoil, with reports of unrest in the population increasing daily.

Internal instability has been further fostered by political ferment, as demonstrated by Al-Asad's dismissal of almost his entire Cabinet last month, and the lack of clarity regarding a successor who would satisfy both the 'Alawite minority and the rest of Syria's power structure.

Furthermore, Al-Asad is in a cloudy position vis-a-vis the new regime in the USSR. Given the Gorbachev regime's clear policy of limiting regional conflicts so as not to disrupt the wider goals of Soviet policy toward the West, it seems highly unlikely that Al-Asad could count on Soviet support—either diplomatic or military—if he were to initiate a conflict with Israel at this time. The Soviets have also curtailed the quantity and quality of arms shipments to Syria in recent months, leaving some serious holes in Syria's defences, especially in terms of ground-to-ground and ground-to-air rocketry and the Air Force.

The Syrian Army, according to the experts, is also at a low point. New equipment, ordered in the aftermath of the 1982 Lebanon war and Al-Asad's quest for strategic parity, remains unopened, and economic realities have severely curtailed the Army's expansion and training programmes.

Al-Asad's forces are, moreover, deployed along a wide front, from the Golan through the Lebanese and Iraqi borders, with some of his best divisions being stationed in Lebanon.

Also, the chances of Syria's being able to count on supplementary Arab military support, especially if the conflict with Israel were limited and quick, are negligible, given the Iraq-Iran war and the ascendency of the moderate Arab wing in recent months.

The factors to be taken into consideration are many. While logic would indicate that the chances of Syria's risking confrontation with Israel over an Israeli retaliatory raid in the Al-Biqa' are extremely low, the possibility remains.

Whether Israel should take a chance is a direct function of the benefits to be gained from the attack. If, by attacking Jibril in the Al-Biqa', one could deal a severe blow to his organization, the risk might be worthwhile. If, on the other hand, however, such a raid would achieve little beyond satisfying the demands of the Israeli public for retribution, it would not be worth taking.

When they fingered Syria, Israel's leaders were leaving their options open. That a week has passed with no overt sign of retaliation is not to be interpreted as meaning that retaliation will not come. That they have so far limited their response to verbal warnings is not to assume that the message will end with words alone.

Peres, Eban To Testify at Vanunu Trial

TA061736 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Abba Eban, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, will be summoned to Mordekhay Vanunu's trial as witnesses for the defense. This was decided today by the Jerusalem District Court, Yasmin Qeyni has reported.

The court hearing Vanunu's case decided to comply with the request of Avigdor Feldman, the attorney for the defense, and summon the two men to testify in the trial. Peres and Eban will apparently give their testimonies within the next few days or in the course of next week. Today the court heard the testimony of Frank Barnby of London University and tomorrow it will hear the testimony of Peter Horn, the reporter who disclosed Vanunu's story in THE SUNDAY TIMES. On Thursday, the High Court of Justice will hear the defense's petition to open the trial to the public.

Refugee Camps To Become Permanent Sites

TA041242 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] For the first time since the 6-Day War, Israel is going to begin large-scale development works in refugee canmps in Judaea and Samaria in a bid to lay the infrastructure for services in the camps. To this end, Israel has allocated 8 million shekels which will be used to pave roads, string power lines, and install water and sewage pipes. UNRWA has given its consent to the works planned by Israel. UNRWA had previously objected to having Israel enter the refugee camps.

Our correspondent has specifically been told that there is no intention to remove refugees from the camps. Our correspondent points out that on this point the new plan differs from previous plans, such as that drawn up by Mordekhay Ben-Porat which talked about rehabilitating refugees outside the camps as well. These works will actually turn the camps from temporary refugee centers into permanent sites. This constitutes the primary significance of the plan.

Finance Minister Nisim Presents 1988 Budget

TA1140 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Dec 87 pp 1, 10

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] There will be no election economics in the coming year and Israelis will have to face continued fiscal austerity, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim said yesterday as he presented his NIS49 billion draft budget to the Cabinet.

Unlike previous budgets, the new one includes no major changes. It was deliberately drafted to ensure the continuation of existing trends.

Among its main features are cuts in subsidies for basic commodities and public transportation, taxes on the children's allowances paid by the National Insurance Institute to families in the higher income brackets, and user charges for education and health services.

In addition, the budget calls for closing down or reducing government units and operations, such as certain absorption centres and teachers' seminars. It also proposes the transfer of a number of government bodies to the private sector.

Major changes in cost-of-living allowances, which would reduce the automatic linkage between wages and prices, are being planned by the Treasury for the coming fiscal year, Nisim told the ministers.

The Treasury would also like to transfer the administration of HAGA (the Civil Defence Corps) from the IDF to the police, thus giving HAGA a special budget which would come under direct Treasury scrutiny.

No debate took place at yesterday's meeting. But several ministers have already announced that they will oppose the Treasury's proposals.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino and Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon earlier expressed opposition to the proposed cuts in their ministries' budgets. They were joined yesterday by Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur who described the budget proposal as "anti-Zionist" on the grounds that it undermined social services.

Within the Likud, Minister-With-Out-Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i critcized Nisim for the lack of cuts in the Defence Ministry budget. He joined Transport Minister Hayim Corfu and Labour Minister Moshe Qatzav, who have also expressed reservations about the proposals.

Nisim told the ministers a NIS755 million slash in the budget was essential to prevent a rise in the state budget deficit. Keeping the deficit at NIS1.2 billion was the only way of ensuring low interest rates and a targeted reduction in inflation, he said.

The minister told the Cabinet he was hoping to raise the prices of basic commodities and public transportation in two stages—the first in the coming days, and the second in April. But this was conditional on the approval of the Histadrut, with which the Treasury has a price stability agreement ruling out such hikes until April 1988. If the labour federation refuses to go along with the Treasury proposal, there will be one large hike in April, he said.

Nisim defended the proposed introduction of user charges for education and health services, saying he did not propose to cut the services but to make them more efficient.

"We must fight government deficits. They only create high taxes, inflation and stagnation," he said.

He added that when he learned, in August, the exact amount of scheduled government debt repayments to the public—from maturing compulsory loans and the "arrangement" bank shares—he was "frightened. The repayment of debts to the public will total NIS18 billion and will represent half of the budget. Enlarging the budget today would be at the expense of the coming generations, Nisim said.

The state budget foresees a very small rise in the standard of living in 1988, coupled with a possible rise in interest rates. Real wages are expected to go up by 6 per cent as a result of existing agreements. The Treasury would like to offset this increase through its proposed C-o-L allowance arrangements.

Finance Minister Announces 1988 Budget

JN071529 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah has announced that the general state budget for 1988 is JD [Jordanian dinars] 1,075,400,000, up 6.6 percent over the revised budget for 1987. He said that estimated total revenues for next year are JD 1,008,500,000, with a deficit of JD 66,900,000.

In his budget speech at this morning's session of the House of Representatives, chaired by Deputy Speaker Isma'il Hijazi and attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the ministers, 'Awdah reported that appropriations are as follows:

—Economic development sectors: JD 256,100,000

—Social and cultural development sectors: JD 142,400,000

—Public administration and finance: JD 243,200,000

—Defense and security: JD 256,000,000

—Servicing local and foreign debts: JD 177,700,000

[Passage omitted] 'Awdah said: We in Jordan have not been impervious to world developments and the concerns of the region in which we live. However, we have managed to hold the negative repercussions to a minimum and to achieve positive development rates in the nation's production coupled with stable price levels. The trade deficit will continue to fall for the 4th consecutive year. We have also managed to maintain the stability of the dinar, foreign currency reserves, and the balance of payments. We have kept public debt servicing within internationally recognized safety levels. In the meantime, the Amman Stock Exchange reactivated its operations and deposits in local banks increased.

In his budget speech, the minister of finance affirmed that the government's decisions and policies seek to secure an investment climate in the Kingdom to fuel development. He said that the government has done all it can to protect the nation's industries, supporting them in various ways to weather international and regional economic conditions. He stated that 1987 local revenues covered 91 percent of the year's current expenses. He reviewed the government's measures in various areas. These include improving the finances of the village and municipal councils; reassessing the educational process; organizing and updating public administration; updating certain financial and economic legislation, particularly company and bank laws and those on public debt; and organizing the budget. [passage omitted]

Dudin Denounces Decision on Electric Company

JN071505 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Dec 87 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B, agencies—Jordan has vehemently denounced the Israeli Government's decision to decrease the franchise of the Jerusalem Governorate's electric company as a prelude to the seizure of this great Arab establishment in the holy city.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B yesterday on the decision to switch a number of neighborhoods in the Arab company's franchise area to the regional Israeli electric network, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin said the Israeli transgressions have been continuing for the past 20 years and are a clear and open violation of the rights of this Arab company over this long time. The minister added that this decision is a flagrant violation of the company's franchise to produce and distribute electricity in its area, a franchise that has been honored since the company was established 60 years ago.

Dudin asserted: We vehemently denounce this decision and we will discuss with the company's management the results of reducing and violating its franchise. We stress the illegitimacy of the occupation in the first place, which makes the occupation measures related to Jerusalem in particular illegitimate, such as the recent move against one of the great Arab establishments in Arab Jeursalem. [passage omitted]

Minister Discusses West Bank Health Service

JN082116 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Health Minister Dr Zayd Hamzah said today Jordan will continue to extend support for the Arab population in the occupied West Bank and provide health services for them. He was speaking at a press conference following talks he held yesterday with directors of health centers in the West Bank to discuss health problems there.

He said health centers will be opened in the West Bank towns of Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, and Hebron and provide them with personnel and equipment. He said patients in occupied Jerusalem will receive treatment and medicine according to the health insurance system applied in the East Bank. The minister said the construction of a planned Arab hospital in Jerusalem is facing difficulties including obtaining a licence from the occupation authorities. He pointed out that equipment, staff, and plans for the hospitals are all ready.

Report on Release of French, Other Hostages
NC081002 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
7 Dec 87 p 7

[Text] There are many aspects to the deal that led to the release of French hostages Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque. The deal is not confined to the exchange in Karachi of Jean-Paul Torri, first secretary at the French Embassy in Tehran, and Vahid Gorji, translator at the Iranian Embassy in Paris, or to France's repayment to Iran of $300 million, part of a loan the former Iranian shah made to France. It also involves other factors related to those concerned both directly and indirectly in the abductions.

With respect to the abductors, it has been learned that they received $1.5 million for each of the two hostages. Matters concerning the Gulf war were also included in the deal. In this respect, France undertook to cease providing Iraq with new weapons. This pledge came after a failure to arrive at an agreement that France would supply weapons and military supplies to Iran. The sources who reported this did not specify when France would cease providing Iraq with new arms. It must be borne in mind that advanced equipment, such as the Super Etendard aircraft, requires spare parts on a semi-regular basis from the country of origin, which is France in this case.

According to the same information, a solution to the problem of the foreign hostages in Lebanon is in the making. The process has started with a series of hostage releases, beginning with U.S. journalist Charles Glass, going on to include the South Korean diplomat and the FRG hostage Alfred Schmidt, and ending with Auque and Normandin. The same sources emphasized that the remaining hostages will be released and the entire problem solved in the next 6 months.

The available information makes no reference to the fate of Terry Waite, the envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury.

However, informed political sources in West Beirut have noted that the talks under way in this respect might produce positive results with regard to his freedom.

Sha'ban Proposed Saudi Arabia, Iran Mediator
NC081243 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
7 Dec 87 p 7

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement], who was one of four Muslim ulema elected to represent "The Islamic World" during a recent debate in Tehran on the Mecca incidents and the future of the pilgrimage, may play a mediating role in a bid to bring about a solution before the next pilgrimage. To those who proposed that he undertake this task, Sha'ban insisted that before engaging in this endeavor he should receive a formal assurance from Saudi Arabia that his role as mediator would be accepted and that the Iranians would give him an official mandate to do so. Iran is said to be opposed to the idea so far, as it prefers to see Sha'ban as its ally rather than a neutral go-between.

It is known that Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, who was in Mecca for the pilgrimage, stayed behind after the incidents and held consultations with the Saudi interior minister. He was instrumental at the time in getting the Iranian casualties out of Saudi Arabia and in solving some problems in connection with the departure of certain Iranian pilgrims.

Israeli Overflights Reported in South 7 Dec
NC072014 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes have flown over the areas between Qal'at al-Shaqif and the Kafr Rumman-Al-'Ayshiyah axis.

Syria's Khaddam on Prospects for Unification
NC081326 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
7 Dec 87 p 7

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Visitors to Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday quoted him as saying that Syria is confident that Lebanon's unity is not in jeopardy, and that there is no future for any plans to establish cantons or promote partitionist ideas in Lebanon.

The only plan for a canton in Lebanon is that which the Lebanese Forces are trying to carry out in the eastern areas, benefiting from the state's support, Khaddam said. He added: "Syria will not stand idly by if this plan gets serious or dangerous; it will not permit it." According to his visitors, Khaddam does not consider the current situation in the western areas to represent cantons or plans for cantons, for such a concept is out of the question for those in charge of these areas. Khaddam said that the Lebanese people are against militias, particularly in the eastern sector [of Beirut], and that the western sector rejected the militias before the entry of the Syrian Army.

Khaddam noted that "there is nothing to be hoped for from President Amin al-Jumayyil, as he is determined to abort any opportunity for a dialogue. In this regard he is following the attitude adopted in 1958 by former President Camille Sham'un, who refused to make any concessions or to introduce any reforms. However, the situation is now different from that of 1958, and whoever wants to become a Lebanese Christian hero must bring about peace and a solution first, not the other way around."

According to Khaddam, those who hope that foreign intervention will be in their interest are mistaken. The United States is busy with the issues of the stock exchange and elections. During the Amman summit, the Arabs could not handle the Lebanese issue because of the

factional nature of the Lebanese delegation to the summit. Therefore, he added, "there will be no solution in Lebanon except a national one agreed upon by the Lebanese, and Syria will accept it."

According to Khaddam, Lebanon's unity is a fundamental aspect of the Arab nationalist drive. He drew attention to the fact that extremism generates further extremism, noting that Syria will not strike at or confront any force as long as this force is fighting Israel; rather, it will provide it with arms. He added that once a solution to the Lebanese issue is imminent, Syria will find a way to reach an understanding with all the national parties. [passage omitted]

It is Khaddam's view that the Lebanese Forces have infiltrated the Lebanese Army. As an example of this, he cited the failure of the Army to retaliate against the killers of 5th Brigade Commander Colonel Khalil Kan'an, who was murdered by the Lebanese Forces. It was also the Army that confronted the forces of Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman] when they entered Al-Ashrafiyah in East Beirut. According to Khaddam, the preservation of Lebanon's unity without the introduction of reforms means a return to civil war, for Lebanon's unity depends on the reform and development of the regime.

President on National Crisis, Peace Conference

NC071940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Lebanon's domestic crisis, the Lebanese-Syrian and Lebanese-Arab relations, and the anticipated international economic aid to Lebanon were prominent topics in the dialogue that took place today between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and a delegation from the Editors' Association, led by Milhim Karam, the association's chairman. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he is optimistic or pessimistic at this time, the president replied: You have always heard me say that I am neither pessimistic nor optimistic; rather, I am determined to reach the end of the road within the framework of my constitutional responsibilities as a president and my national responsibilities as a citizen. I will shoulder my political responsibilities in cooperation with all the political leaders in Lebanon who, like me, are eager to maintain the country's unity, democracy, freedom, and peace.

He added: I raised this slogan from the first moment, and I still raise it. When I assumed this responsibility in 1982, I knew that the mission was impossible. I knew that what previous regimes could not achieve because of hampering regional conditions, I also would find difficult to achieve unless something positive developed. President al-Jumayyil asserted: I think that the time has come for everyone to completely understand the Lebanese reality, for everyone to realize that a Lebanese solution must be an embodiment of the Lebanese people's aspirations or there will be no solution. We are seeking final and viable solutions that will embody the Lebanese people's hopes and ambitions, and not the whims and ambitions of those parasites feeding on the Lebanese sovereignty and independence.

Asked whether a new initiative was being prepared, President al-Jumayyil said: The term initiative is stagnant. Lebanon's salvation cannot be achieved through an initiative. Lebanon is a group of initiatives and continuous activities. We wanted the Syrian view of the Lebanese situation to be comprehensive, objective, and just. We wanted it to be fair to all the Lebanese, and not to pit one faction against the other.

However, the president added, we still emphasize the need to cooperate with Syria because it will have to be convinced to adopt a policy that serves Lebanon's interests while also serving Syria's. He stated: We emphasize the importance for Syria to play a positive role in working for Lebanese peace, sovereignty, and independence.

We are also in contact with all the Arab brothers—the Saudis, Jordanians, Algerians, and others. Some of them played a direct role at the Arab summit. Each state has its own proposals for and methods of assistance. This prompts some to describe it as an initiative. However, there is actually only one initiative: the Lebanese people's initiative for salvation.

We need the support of all the Arab brothers, each within his own capacity, particularly at this period in which the Lebanese arena has become a complex web of Arab contradictions and objectives.

He went on to say: We also rely on the support of the superpowers, the French, Americans, British, Germans, and Soviets; as well as the EC, the Eastern bloc, and the Vatican. All these activities are designed to rally support for the Lebanese march, which seeks to spread an atmosphere of peace and stability throughout the country. Therefore, we cannot say one initiative, but a multifaceted interest.

President al-Jumayyil dealt with the presence of non-Lebanese forces on Lebanese territory, the effects of such a presence on the Lebanese people, and the artificial frontiers and differences of views it has created. He said: We want our sovereignty. We want Lebanese territory to once again become Lebanese, with only the Lebanese flag flying over it. We will cooperate with anyone on the Arab or international level who wants to help us establish peace and stability in Lebanon.

When asked about the current government situation and the possibility of forming a new cabinet, President al-Jumayyil said: Governments in all countries embody the agreement made among the people and political

groups on specific objectives. The people in Lebanon agree on specific objectives. But unfortunately, they are unable to express this through a government.

President al-Jumayyil spoke about King Husayn's untiring efforts before, during, and after the Amman summit. He understands Lebanon's situation and the suffering of its people, the president stated, and he has persistently tried to save Lebanon and find conciliatory formulas for the Lebanese people. However, there are other parties which, it seems, are not prepared for a solution, and Lebanon is paying the price for this.

The president affirmed his determination to peacefully pass the coming deadline in September 1988 and to ensure a normal transition.

He maintained that the war in the area will not end before a peaceful solution is found for the Arab-Israeli and the Palestinian problems. But, he said, it is important to remove the Lebanese fuse from this quagmire. This is what we are seeking.

When asked whether the Lebanese issue will be discussed at the summit between the two superpowers in Washington, he responded: This issue will have to be raised in one way or another. The Lebanese issue is no longer a purely Lebanese concern. It has become an extension of the Arab-Israeli war, which has numerous manifestations; an extension of the Iraq-Iran war, which has numerous manifestations; an extension of the fundamentalist wave that is lashing out at the entire Arab world, which also has numerous manifestations; and an extension of the traditional ideological war.

With regard to Lebanon's position on an international conference for peace in the Middle East, President al-Jumayyil said: The international conference idea is on the agenda, and Lebanon took an official position on it during the government of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami. We have reaffirmed the position with Prime Minister al-Huss. Lebanon supports an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Lebanon considers itself a principal party in this conference. It is supposed to be on the agenda and at the negotiating table. Lebanon has a case, and it has a definite interest in the conference. Sovereign Lebanon should defend its own rights at the negotiating table. Lebanon should not let others defend it in negotiations. [passage omitted]

The president maintained that the decision to deploy the Army in greater Beirut is within the jurisdiction of the defense and interior ministers. However, he added, before such a decision is made, it is necessary to have a body that can assume the responsibility, such as a government or a national authority that enjoys the nation's confidence and is capable of absorbing any reaction and politically protecting and backing the Army. The Army is the people, and it is the last resort. It must be safeguarded. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official on UNIFIL Finances

PM041123 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Dec 87 p 19

[Interview with Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general and ambassador to France, by William Dahir in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] AL-HAWADITH: How do you account for the recent U.S. interest in Lebanon in light of the contacts you have had with Vernon Walters? What is the secret behind the sudden increase in interest?

Al-Turk: U.S. interest in Lebanon has never ceased, because a stable Lebanon would, in turn, constitute a stabilizing factor for the region. This interest has grown and diminished according to circumstances and new developments. Undoubtedly, the president's trip to the United Nations and his meeting with Secretary of State Shultz and his top aides have given a boost to U.S. interest, especially as the president submitted a plan to the Americans which they consider appropriate for a dialogue.

I am not in a position to predict the size or extent that this U.S. interest will assume, though I have some doubts about its outcome.

For years we have been trying to separate the issue of Lebanon from the issue of the Middle East. Unfortunately, however, external factors are still imposing themselves. It seems to me that developments in the Gulf war and in the plan for an international Middle East peace conference, as well as the resultant Amman Arab summit decisions, will inevitably have a negative or positive effect on the course of events concerning us.

AL-HAWADITH: Since there is U.S. interest in Lebanon, how do you explain the suspension of the U.S. contribution to financing the UN forces?

Al-Turk: One ought to distinguish here between the U.S. Administration's position, that is, the executive's position, and the legislative branch's position as reflected by the Senate and the House of Representatives. The U.S. Administration in a recommendation to Congress favored contributing to funding the international forces, which costs around $20 million every 6 months. While the House of Representatives accepted the recommendation, the Senate Finance Committee opposed it. So a committee representing both houses is expected to meet to settle the matter once and for all. I do not think it will have a positive outcome. Nevertheless, we are pursuing efforts and we also have on our side the UN secretary general for that purpose.

AL-HAWADITH: Would Washington's refusal to contribute to financing the peacekeeping forces lead to their departure, since the small participating states have started to grumble and complain?

Al-Turk: I do not envisage a negative effect on the states participating in the forces, at least in the 6 months after the next renewal.

AL-HAWADITH: Who will serve as a replacement in financing these forces?

Al-Turk: There are presently a number of states which are paying the cost, such as the Soviet Union, which announced that it is prepared to study the possibility of meeting the deficit that the UNIFIL budget could run into. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Sulayman Franjiyah

JN071532 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] At 1100 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his son Robert.

SDAR President Sends Letter to Al-Asad

JN071718 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has received a letter addressed to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from the president of the SDAR. Sister Khadijah Hamdi, president of the SDAR Women's Association, handed him the letter when she called on Comrade Qaddah this morning.

During this meeting, Comrade Qaddah outlined Syria's stand on Arab developments and its principled opposition to imperialist and Zionist plans. He emphasized Syria's support for the aspirations of the SDAR people and their struggle for liberation. For her part, Khadijah Hamdi voiced admiration for the unyielding stand of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, as representative of the will and ambition of the Arab people in standing up to the line of deviation and capitulation.

Khaddam on Al-Jumayyil,'Partition Plans'

JN071500 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The Lebanese newspapers today report remarks made by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam during a meeting yesterday with a delegation that the papers say represented pro-Syrian Lebanese parties and organizations.

Khaddam reportedly said there is no longer any hope of anything from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and that the Lebanese president is obstructing all opportunities for dialogue.

Khaddam asserted that the reunification of Lebanon requires reforms; otherwise, the situation will lead to a new civil war. According to the Lebanese papers, Khaddam declared there is no future for partition plans. He said the only remaining plan is that of the Lebanese Forces. When that plan becomes serious, Syria will not stand idly by.

Al-Zu'bi, CSSR Minister Discuss Economic Ties

JN071548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] At 1300 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Eng Bohumil Orban, CSSR minister of foreign trade, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; the Syrian Central Bank governor; and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus. They reviewed bilateral cooperation and ways of boosting it. They particularly reviewed ways to promote economic cooperation and trade in the mutual interests of the friendly countries and peoples.

Industry Minister Talks With Iranian Envoy

LD080713 Tehran IRNA in English 0548 GMT
8 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 8, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari conferred with Syrian Minister of Industries Antoine Jubran about bilateral relations here Monday. Ways to expand Tehran-Damascus economic and industrial cooperation were discussed in the meeting.

Paper Cited on Expected Israeli 'Aggression'

JN080925 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 8 Dec 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Objectives of the Israeli Concentrations in the South," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Reports are continuing on Israeli military concentrations in southern Lebanon. The objective of these reinforcements is to carry out a new Zionist military operation in that country. According to reports from Israel, this military operation is a reply to the Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance operations which escalated recently and caused real terror inside occupied Palestine. This has urged the Zionist leadership to seriously think of carrying out an aggression and of actually preparing for it on a political and military level.

AL-BA'TH adds: Because we know full well the aggressive, expansionist nature of Israeli decisionmaking since the establishment of the Zionist entity, we can confirm that the Zionist government does not have to search for pretexts to carry out any military aggression against adjacent Arab territory, especially since this government believes that circumstances are appropriate now to begin this aggression with or without the escalation of resistance operations.

The expected aggression against Lebanese territory will not only be, if it actually takes place, a reply to the heroic operations which were recently carried out by the Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance, but it will also take place to achieve a clear political dimension with two objectives. The first objective is to reply to international unanimity, during sessions of the United Nations, on the concept of holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East to implement a unanimous decision to hasten efforts to hold this conference as a framework for settling the Middle East crisis in accordance with UN principles and resolutions.

The second objective is to conceal the internal crisis in Israel, to stop the deterioration of the coalition between Shamir and Peres, and to tackle the effects of the stifling economic crisis and its consequences on the coming elections over which a conflict is raging these days among Israeli political circles.

Although the obstacles to such an aggression at this particular time, during the convocation of the U.S.-USSR summit in Washington, appear to be frustrating for Israel, Israeli military actions, statements, and media insinuations confirm that the decision to carry out an aggression has been made and any delay in military operations is merely a delusion regardless of the obstacles to this aggression in the near future.

However, what Israel and its war commanders in particular should know is that the threats to carry out an aggression by Israel have become part of our calculations and those of Arab resistance. They are an established possibility that will never surprise us or change anything of the established facts on the battlefield or of the heroic steadfastness of resistance as long as the legitimate right, which the Arab resistance men are defending, represents a just cause which Israel can no longer eliminate from anyone's mind in the region and the world and as long as any Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon or any Arab territory will only create new sources of resistance and steadfastness and bring the Arabs closer to their ultimate objective of liberation and the restoration of their full rights.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives SRV Women's Union Head

LD080520 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 6, BAKHTAR—Dr. Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received in his office today Nguyen Thi Dinh, president of Women's Union of Socialist Republic of Vietnam who is heading a Vietnamese delegation.

The meeting was also attended by Masooma Wardak, chairperson of All-Afghanistan Women Council.

The delegation is here at the invitation of All-Afghanistan Women Council.

Commentary Marks Anniversary of Soviet Treaty

LD060626 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 5, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

December 5 coincides with a great event in the Afghan-Soviet friendship and good neighbourly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

On this day, i.e. December 5, 1978, the solid foundation was laid for the further fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

Nine years have elapsed from the conclusion of Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighbourliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and the Afghan people today see the fruitful results of it in the conditions of undeclared war against Afghanistan.

The first treaty of friendship and good neighbourliness concluded between the two countries in 1921 is based on the principles of equal rights, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, and respect to the national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Today, there is no place in Afghanistan where the brotherly economic, technical and scientific assistance of the Soviet Union cannot be seen.

The history testifies that the Soviet Union has helped the Afghan people and has sought no benefit from the Afghans.

The total assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan prior and after the revolution amounts at thousands of millions of dollars. The Soviet Union has helped Afghanistan in 230 important economic projects, one hundred of which were already completed and 130 of them will be completed in the course of the first post-revolution five-year development plan (1986-1991).

The available documents indicate that 75 percent of the aggregate industrial production in the state and 45 percent of the state revenues comes from the economic projects built in Afghanistan with the assistance of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union has given gratis aid worth of over one billion afghanis in the form of foodstuffs and primary goods to Afghanistan during the last Afghan year alone and the amount of such gratis aid has gone up several times this year.

The Soviet Union supports firmly the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan and calls for the earliest political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

These are the evidences testifying truthfulness and sincerity of the Afghan-Soviet friendship which can not be ignored by any sober-minded person.

The people of Afghanistan believe in the Afghan-Soviet friendship and take pride in it.

Construction Material Accord Signed With USSR

LD070945 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpt] An agreement to deliver equipment and construction material and to send specialists in housing construction plants was signed today in Kabul between the [words indistinct] and the economic secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. Under the agreement, which will be financed with Soviet credit, the Soviet Union will supply equipment and material for housing construction worth over R3,197,000. [passage omitted]

Narcotics Smuggled From Pakistan Seized

LD060024 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Twenty kilograms of the narcotic substance heroin, which was brought into the country from Pakistan by a secret contraband network linked with the extremist groups and which was intended for use to addict our compatriots, was discovered and seized by officials of the Sarandoy command of Kabul city from the region of Qal'eh-ye Shapgar in Dasht-e Archi.

The BIA military correspondent has reported that these substances had been placed in special bags which were marked [words indistinct] company of Pakistan. They were seized together with five perpetrators. The case is now under investigation.

Najibullah Receives Tribal Representatives

LD051207 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] In his office yesterday, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received the chieftains, elders, and representatives of the Zadran people and spoke to them about the issues and difficulties of the Khowst district. This meeting was also attended by Sulayman La'eq, minister of nationalities and tribal affairs.

According to another report, esteemed Najibullah received a number of Qandahar elders, who had participated as people's representatives in the Grand Assembly. After talking with them, he then issued instructions to the appropriate bodies in connection with resolving the difficulties and problems of the people of Qandahar.

A number of chieftains and elders of the Aka Khel tribes from Paktia Province also met yesterday with esteemed Najibullah. They discussed their regional difficulties and problems, and instructions were given to the appropriate bodies to resolve them.

Keshtmand Tours Jowzjan, Balkh Provinces

LD061340 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, recently participated in sessions of party and state activists and social organizations, and in other meetings during a tour of Jowzjan and Balkh Provinces.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand was warmly welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed Nasim Mayhanparast, elders, leaders, members of the national reconciliation commissions, and the party and state leadership of Jowzjan province on his arrival to Sheberghan city, the provincial capital, on 3 December. [passage omitted]

According to a BAKHTAR report, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand arrived in Balkh Province on Thursday evening. After inspecting the guard of honor, he took part in a session of province's armed forces activists, which was held in the local army hall. He talked with soldiers, officers, and NCO's of the division, as well as with the people's militia and state security officials. [passage omitted]

On Friday afternoon, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand took part in and addressed a session of party and state activists, social organizations, and Balkh Province peoples representatives, which was held in the conference hall of the Balkh party committee in order to express support for the decisions of the Grand Assembly, the approval of the Constitution, and the election of esteemed Najibullah as president of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

At the end of his visit to Balkh Province, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand attended a working session of party and state leadership members. He gave them specific tasks to address.

Clash Erupts Between Rebel Groups in Pakistan

LD070936 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0439 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 6, BAKHTAR—As a result of a violent clash which occurred between two extremist groups in Kohat region of Pakistan, forty seven km away from Peshawar city, 39 rpt 39 persons including Azrat Gul, one of the ringleaders of an extremist group were wounded seriously, reports reaching here say.

The cause of the clash was reported to be division of the so-called aid goods of the imperialist countries rendered to the extremists for further fanning up of the undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan.

60 Extremists Cease Armed Opposition in Balkh

LD041203 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A 60-man armed group, which had been engaged in armed activities in and around Balkh District in Balkh Province, expressed support for the policy of national reconciliation yesterday.

This group, led by Jalil, was welcomed by a large number of people and officials in the district. [passage omitted]

Our compatriots, who have come out in support of the policy of national reconciliation, brought with them one recoilless rifle, two rocket launchers, one DShK, two heavy machinguns, and dozens of light weapons with thousands of rounds of ammunition. They handed them over to the security forces of Balkh District.

600 Surrender in Herat

LD080800 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 7, BAKHTAR—A group of six hundred armed men by responding positively to the decisions of the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) and cessation of its armed activities against the PDPA and state has joined the policy of national reconciliation in the Adraskan Grand District of Herat Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Herat.

The peaceloving residents of Adraskan in their gathering held in this connection, appreciated the peace choice and reconcilement of the group with the state.

Later, Abdul Rahman head of the group pledged that he and his group will do their best for the elimination of war and bloodshed in every nook and corner of the country.

Despite the joining of the armed groups to the policy of national reconciliation by every passing day, unfortunately, there are still hoodlums who are throwing stones against this humanistic policy of the PDPA and state of the Republic of Afghanistan. For instance an armed group of extremists headed by Ahmad Shah who was conducting subversive activities in the localities of Khanabad Grand District of Konduz Province, at the demands of the residents and commission for national reconciliation of that area, were (?toppled) by the vigilant security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The criminal group was plundering properties of our compatriots under the condition when some of the villages of Khanabad Grand District have been declared as zones of peace.

At the end of the operation three recoilless cannons, a mortar, a ground-to-ground rocket launcher, thirty rockets, fourteen heavy and light machine-guns and a large quantity of arms and ammunition of different make were confiscated by the security forces.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Views Mujahidin Alliance

JN021721 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
30 Nov 87 p 15

[Interview with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, by Basil Muhammad; date and place not given—opening paragraphs AL-ITTIHAD introduction]

[Text] Over the past few weeks, Afghanistan has witnessed two important political events, the background and consequences of which interest both observers and students of Afghan politics. The first event is the birth of a new federation of the seven mujahidin parties. This federation is the fourth or fifth of its kind. The second event is the visit to the United States by the chairman of this federation and representatives of the seven parties and the meeting that five of them held with President Reagan. This visit came after the United Nations had issued its ninth call for the immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

AL-ITTIHAD met with the most prominent leaders of the seven parties in an attempt to sound them out on the new developments and the latest situation in Afghanistan. Our first meeting was with Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, which is one of the biggest and best organized of the mujahidin parties. The following is an interview with Hikmatyar.

[Muhammad] Last month we were surprised to hear about the birth of a new mujahidin federation under the chairmanship of Yunis Khalis. This followed an announcement of the failure to form a provisional government in exile. What is new in this federation and why was the idea of a provisional government proposed and then rejected, especially by your party?

[Hikmatyar] In fact, the federation in its general form has always been present. However, differences over certain issues prompted us to reach an agreement by which the federation's official spokesman will be given the powers of the chairman for 1 and 1/2 years. We also agreed to hold elections for a shura. This shura will then decide on the form of the provisional mujahidin government and elect a leader for this government.

In previous discussions to form this government, we thought that the shura should be elected. Our brothers agreed in principle but later retreated from their position. The six parties agreed to form a shura by giving each party an equal number of seats rather than by elections. We did not agree. We said that we would not sit in an unelected shura. After long discussions, we agreed the following: The official spokesman will be the chairman for 1 and 1/2 years and then elections for the shura will be held.

[Muhammad] During this period, will the federation establish joint committees and bodies to overcome past shortcomings?

[Hikmatyar] So far, the bodies of each of the seven parties have not changed. However, we agreed that some committees will merge such as the committees of education, emigrants, and health.

[Muhmmad] What about a military merger or at least military coordination among the various fronts?

[Hikmatyar] Coordination among the commanders of the fronts had existed. God be praised, there is cohesion among the various fronts in the battlefield. They fight together and defend themselves together and help each other in most areas. It is obvious that there is an improvement in this respect. However, a full merger requires time. There are difficulties. We have decided that after the formation of an elected shura, the party which wins a majority in the council will form a government. This will also open the way for a military merger, but this is difficult. We have tried this in the past and the results were the opposite of what we had wanted. Instead of uniting our ranks, the merger led to the establishment of a new organization. In light of past experience, we decided to be patient.

[Muhammad] The visit by Yunis Khalis, chairman of the new federation, to the United States took place a few weeks after the establishment of this federation. Was his meeting with U.S. President Reagan agreed to by all seven parties?

[Hikmatyar] Never. Neither our representative nor that of Sayyaf was present at this meeting. We dispatched this delegation to the United Nations, and our representative was with the delegation. Following their mission at the

United Nations, the members of the delegation dispersed. Our representative went to another place while five of the delegation members left for Washington and met with Reagan.

[Muhammad] How do you assess this meeting?

[Hikmatyar] Our stand continues to be as it has been in the past. When I was the official spokesman for the federation, I refused to meet with any official in the U.S. Administration, and I did not meet with Reagan. Our representative was not in the delegation that met with him last year. At the time, we stated our stand in the press and we continue to abide by it.

[Muhammad] Since the five other parties agreed to the meeting, do you not believe that this difference of opinion could undermine the federation?

[Hikmatyar] This is one of the things that makes us hesitate to achieve a complete merger. We know that the policies of some of the parties differ on this issue. However, for the sake of forming a united anti-Soviet front, we agreed to unite on the issues on which we could reach agreement.

[Muhammad] Generally speaking, how do you assess the U.S. stand on the situation in Afghanistan?

[Hikmatyar] As you well know, the struggle began when Carter was president of the United States, and Carter's policy on Afghanistan is well known. He agreed to its remaining under Soviet control. Following the invasion, Carter announced that the United States would not allow the Soviets to go any further. This means he agreed to what had already taken place.

However, after that the resistance continued its operations and attained some measure of strength. After becoming certain that the resistance will continue, many, including the United States, announced their support for us. Everyone knows that the Soviet presence in Afghanistan poses a threat to U.S. interests in the region. But the United States wants to put the Soviet Union in a dilemma that it can exploit to gain another position in the world. The proof of this is that the United States supports the resistance within limits that will secure its interests against the Soviets.

We are certain that the United States does not want an Islamic government to be formed by the mujahidin. The United States could agree directly with the Soviets to foil this. Efforts are under way to form a neutral government to prevent the mujahidin from forming an Islamic government. Both the United States and the Soviets fear the establishment of an Islamic government. I believe that the United States is more afraid than the Soviets because it fears that an Islamic government may threaten its interests in the region.

[Muhammad] Therefore, what result do you expect from the ongoing talks between the United States and the Soviets with the participation of Pakistan and the Kabul regime with regard to the future of Afghanistan?

[Hikmatyar] I believe there are four possibilities in this respect.

The first possibility: The parties would agree to a neutral government.

The second possibility: The Soviet Union and Pakistan would agree that the present government in Afghanistan would remain and the Soviets would withdraw according to a fixed timetable.

The third possibility: The Soviets would sustain a military defeat and withdraw gradually. This would take longer and depend on a larger resistance to inflict more losses on the Soviets in battle, provided that no important change occurs in the region which affects Pakistan and Iran.

The fourth possibility: Direct negotiations would be held between the mujahidin and the Soviets on how to withdraw. I believe this solution favors both us and the Soviets. The war will end quickly, the Soviets will withdraw from Afghanistan, and the mujahidin and the Soviets will discuss the withdrawal issue.

The whole issue depends on the Soviets. The Soviets were behind U.S. interference in the region. If the Soviets remain in Afghanistan, the United States will interfere more in the region. I believe that the United States interfered in the Gulf because of this. If the Soviets want the United States not to interfere in the region, then they must withdraw quickly.

[Muhammad] If direct or indirect talks are held between the Soviets and the mujahidin, what is the minimum the mujahidin can accept as a compromise? Are you offering any specific concessions to facilitate a withdrawal?

[Hikmatyar] I see nothing to concede on. We have no border problems with the Soviets that need to be settled. The Soviets should withdraw from Afghanistan and leave its people to determine their future by themselves. We believe that the only thing we have to discuss with the Soviets is how they should withdraw. We can accept a cease-fire while the Soviet forces are withdrawing, provided this withdrawal is part of a treaty. Any future government concerns the Afghan people.

We declared that Afghanistan will not be in a bloc after the Soviet withdrawal. It will be a free, independent, and neutral Islamic country. No U.S. camp will be based in it and it will not be used against the Soviets. We want to live with all regional countries in peace and safety. We

will pardon all those who have helped the Soviets during this period if they repent of their actions. This is what we do each day with the soldiers who surrender to the mujahidin.

[Muhammad] Were any serious attemtps made to hold a meeting between the mujahidin and the Soviets from your side or theirs?

[Hikmatyar] So far, the Soviets have not announced this officially. We also did not ask them. However, we believe that it would be better if direct talks were held between the Soviets and the mujahidin. If they announce this, we will announce our stand. If the Soviets call for talks, we will define how the talks will be held and on what issues.

[Muhammad] Do you believe that the ongoing talks among Pakistan, the Soviets, and the Kabul Government can achieve a result which would bypass the mujahidin and decide a form of agreement or solution?

[Hikmatyar] Without the approval of the mujahidin, there will be no guarantee for the implementation of any treaty and any agreement will be worthless. Nobody can apply anything in Afghanistan without the approval of the mujahidin.

[Muhammad] Last month, a U.S. newspaper said that the USSR had proposed to Arab countries the formation of a multinational force to replace Soviet forces if they withdraw from Afghanistan. Do you have any comment on this report?

[Hikmatyar] This was in fact announced but it was not communicated to us officially. Therefore, we cannot comment on it. The problem in Afghanistan does not need a security force from outside. The battles in Afghanistan are not waged among local parties so that a foreign security force could come in to disengage combatants. There is a war between a foreign invader and all the people throughout Afghanistan. The most important issue after the Soviet withdrawal is that no internal war should break out. We do not need a security force from abroad. This is a matter that concerns Afghanistan. However, we would like to reassure the world that there will be no internal clashes after the withdrawal. If there is a suggestion in this respect, it would be better for these forces to remain on the border inside Soviet territory so that they can prevent the Soviets from any new attempt to invade Afghanistan!

[Muhammad] You talk about a Soviet withdrawal. Others talk about Soviet attempts to annex the northern districts of Afghanistan if they fail completely to occupy all districts. Do you believe that this annexation can be achieved?

[Hikmatyar] I believe that the Soviets want to occupy all of Afghanistan. If they cannot, they would concentrate on what is less. However, I would like to reassure you that the Soviets cannot occupy Afghanistan—neither all of it nor part of it. We will continue our struggle until the last Soviet soldier leaves Afghanistan.

[Muhammad] Now, 7 years after the invasion, what stages and achievements have been attained by the mujahidin in Afghanistan on the military and political levels?

[Hikmatyar] As you know, we began the struggle with a small number of mujahidin and a limited supply of simple arms. At that time, the people were not with us. Now, 9 years and 3 months after we began the struggle, we see that all the people are with us. Hundreds of thousands of mujahdin are fighting for God's sake. The Hezb-e Eslami now has 190,000 armed mujahidin in Afghanistan. There were only 190 armed mujahidin at the beginning of the struggle.

Now 90 per cent of Afghan territory is in the hands of the mujahidin. I remember times when we were unable to walk from one village to another, even at night. Now, the Soviets can enter a liberated territory only with a large force, and they face strong resistance that destroys tanks and shoots down planes. We now have centers in all the Afghan governorates. These centers can defend themselves, and the enemy cannot attack them with less than a division.

Our struggle, at the beginning, was based on enthusiasm, and this enthusiasm lacked experience and organization. Now, praise be to God, the mujahidin have technical experience in combat and organization. From all aspects, our situation at present is much better than before. We are continuously improving.

[Muhammad] You have said that 90 percent of Afghan territory has been liberated and is in mujahidin hands. Do you not see that the 10 percent remaining in the hands of the regime and the Soviets is more important and more sensitive than the mountainous and country areas you mentioned?

[Hikmatyar] All the areas in mujahidin hands are important. It is true the towns are in Soviet hands, but towns are not important from a strategic or military viewpoint. Rather, towns have political significance. As you know, we can only defend fortified mountainous areas and all towns in the plains. We have frequently liberated a number of towns but we could not defend them so the enemy recaptured them.

Hence, it is not in our interest to liberate towns and remain in them now because our losses would be large and this would not benefit us from a military viewpoint. Likewise, when towns are in Soviet hands, their losses become larger. Currently, it is very difficult for the enemy to travel from one town to another or to transport assistance among towns because their losses on the roads are larger; when they move with larger forces their losses increase, and the mujahidin spoils also increase.

[Muhammad] Iran's link to the mujahidin was raised recently. Reports said Iranian soldiers captured Stinger missiles which were in the possession of a group of mujahidin who were crossing Iranian territory. In general, how do you assess Iran's stand on Afghanistan's struggle?

[Hikmatyar] Regrettably, Iran is preoccupied with its war with Iraq and it cannot play its role and shoulder its responsibility toward the [Afghan] war. Approximately 1.5 million Afghan refugees are now living in Iran. They are living in camps and carrying out difficult work. There is no assistance for the mujahidin similar to that in Pakistan. There are organizations founded in Iran and the Iranian Government only assists these organizations. This assistance is also small.

[Muhammad] Do these organizations have real military efficiency?

[Hikmatyar] These organizations belong to mountainous areas in Afghanistan and, like similar areas, they were liberated at the beginning of the struggle. Moreover, there are no current enemy moves in these areas. These organizations are now away from the battles waged in the towns or on the highway. Thus, they do not have a noteworthy role.

[Muhammad] In conclusion, while approaching the invasion's 8th anniversary, how do you view Afghanistan's future?

[Hikmatyar] I believe we are currently experiencing a very sensitive phase. If the regional situation remains the same, an important change does not occur, and Soviet losses continue in this manner or increase, then the Soviets cannot remain in Afghanistan long. We hear Soviet hints and get the feeling they want to hold direct negotiations with the mujahidin. If these negotiations take place, they will show that the Soviets seek withdrawal. However, if the Soviets insist on negotiating with parties other than the mujahidin, then this will prove they seek deception and not withdrawal.

[Muhammad] At this moment, one of Hikmatyar's companions enters and gives him a telephone. Hikmatyar speaks in Pashto for several minutes.

[Hikmatyar] The brothers have just conveyed to me that a newspaper cites Gorbachev as saying: We will withdraw from Afghanistan before the West expects us to do so. The paper adds that Gorbachev told Najibullah: After 9 years have passed, you should have a strong position to protect yourselves. Since we assisted you in this phase, you should assist us in order to withdraw from Afghanistan. If the report is true, it shows an important change in Soviet policy and that they are exhausted and have no future hope in Afghanistan. It also means that the Soviets have begun to adopt their stands in light of facts and reality, and also in view of the realization that their lengthy stay in Afghanistan is impossible.

Bangladesh

President on Opposition Leaders, Parliament

BK071555 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] has been dissolved to clear the way for holding fresh polls to get electoral mandate on various national issues, including the Constitution. He was speaking to the editors of national dailies, news agencies, and weeklies at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka today. The president pointed out that as elected president, he has no mandate of the electorate to bring about any changes in the Constitution. He said from the very day he was vested with the responsibility of running the affairs of the country he had been telling the nation to arrive at a national consensus through discussions on national issues.

President Ershad said he will always uphold and protect the Constitution. All the measures taken so far, including the proclamation of emergency in the backdrop of recent political developments, are strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. All these measures are temporary and will be lifted as soon as possible to create a congenial atmosphere for holding of elections.

The president said the emergency will not be in force even a day longer than is necessity and the two leaders of the opposition alliances would be released shortly.

He said elections to Parliament can be held within 90 days as provided in the Constitution if the consensus is reached through dialogue with the political parties.

Explaining the background of dissolving the Jatiya Sangsad, the president said 28 political parties took part in the Sangsad elections, but after the election the political parties which did not take part in it, and also some which did, demanded dissolution of the Parliament and called for a mid-term election. All these led to an impasse. Therefore, Parliament had to be dissolved because it had lost its effectiveness, as the main component of the opposition had announced that it would not participate in its proceedings. The president said he announced at the inaugural session of the Jatiya Sangsad that it would be the center of all national activities and thus the bills tabled by the opposition were supported by the members of the Jatiya Party as the national interest was of supreme consideration. The Information Minister Anwar Zahid and Education Minister Mahbubur Rahman were present.

Detained BBC Dhaka Correspondent Released

BK080700 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka Dec 8 (AFP)—The correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Bangladesh, Ataus Samad, was freed Tuesday after being detained for more than two weeks, family sources said.

Mr Samad, 50, who has worked for the British media for 10 years, was picked up from his Dhaka home on November 23 and put under preventive detention for three months under the country's Special Powers Act.

His detention followed the arrests of a large number of opposition leaders and professionals in recent anti-government protests in Bangladesh.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad told a meeting of editors of national newspapers and news agencies Monday that Mr Samad and two senior opposition politicians would be freed shortly.

No indication was yet available as to when the two women alliance leaders—Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia—would be released. Both have been under house arrest since November 11.

Opposition-Sponsored Strike Continues

Delhi Notes 10 Injured

BK071602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, life in the capital Dhaka came to a standstill today following the opposition-sponsored strike. It is in defiance of the ban on political protests and to press their demand for the resignation of the government. Reports speak of clashes between protesters and police at some places. Ten persons are said to have been injured in bomb blasts. Shops, banks, and business establishments remained closed and the streets wore a deserted look. Only a few state-run buses operated. Train and ferry services were also disrupted. The strike came 1 day after President Ershad dissolved parliament.

New Curfew Hours Announced

BK071605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] There will be curfew again from 2200 tonight to 0600 tomorrow morning [8 December] in the metropolitan areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi, and Narayanganj town. From 0600 tomorrow morning to 2300 tomorrow night, there will be no curfew in these places. Curfew will be reimposed from 2300 tomorrow night to 0500 on Wednesday morning. The industrial areas of Demra, Fatullah, and Adamji in Dhaka and Narayanganj, and (Fulsar Hat) industrial area in Chittagong have been exempted from curfew.

Reportage on Visit of GDR Delegation

First Round of Talks

BK061350 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The first round of official talks between Bangladesh and the German Democratic Republic was held in Dhaka this morning. The talks, lasting about 2 hours, covered the entire range of bilateral relations. Deputy foreign minister, Wajid Ali Khan Panni, led the Bangladesh team at the talks, while the GDR delegation was headed by its deputy foreign minister, Dr H.D. Winter.

Earlier, the East German deputy foreign minister called on the foreign minister, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, and deputy foreign minister, Wajid Ali Khan Panni, separately.

The GDR delegation arrived in Dhaka Saturday on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh.

GDR Official Meets Chowdhury

BK071259 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] The visiting deputy foreign minister of the German Democratic Republic, Dr H.D. Winter, called on Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in Dhaka Monday. Dr Winter discussed with him matters of mutual interest. During the talks, the prime minister stressed the need for increasing the volume of trade between Bangladesh and GDR. The GDR ambassador, Mr Klaus Maeser, was present during the meeting.

India

Natwar Singh on U.S. Senate's 'Distorted' View

BK071305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] India has made it clear that bilateral relations with the United States will have adverse implications if Washington implements the Senate committee's recommendations on South Asia. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, was making a statement in the Lok Sabha today. He reiterated that improvement in the relationship with the United States requires a better appreciation of India's viewpoint. He regretted that the Senate committee has thought it fit to equate India's peaceful nuclear program with Pakistan's relentless pursuit of weapons-oriented program. The minister has made it clear that this distorted view cannot be acceptable to India. Mr Natwar Singh informed the House that New Delhi's strong feelings have been communicated to the U.S. Government at all levels. The prime minister has conveyed it to President Reagan. Mr Natwar Singh himself has told the U.S. ambassador in

New Delhi of the consequences of the proposed congressional action. The minister said that India is waiting for the final outcome. He, however, added that the government has noted President Reagan's concern about the recommendations.

Taking part in the special discussion raised by Mr Jaipal Reddy, Janata, members asked the government to tell the United States in clear terms that equating India's peaceful nuclear program with Pakistan's weapons oriented nuclear program will constitute an unfriendly act. Cutting across party lines, they said a message should go from this House that India cannot be taken for granted and it will stand firm on its nonaligned policy. The discussion is continuing.

Further on Discussion

BK071634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Members in both houses of Parliament today strongly condemned the move by the American Senate committee to equate India with Pakistan on the nuclear issue for transfer of high technology. Their reactions came after the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, made a statement saying that India cannot and will not accept this distorted view of the reality in this region. He said it is regrettable that the Senate committe has thought fit to equate India's peaceful nuclear program with Pakistan's relentless pursuit of a weapons-oriented program. Mr Natwar Singh said the action has made it imperative to emphasize that Indo-U.S. relations will improve only on a better appreciation of India's point of view. He made it clear that financial flows or technology transfer cannot be used as levers to force India to change its policy. He said the government's strong feelings have been conveyed to the U.S. Administration at all levels.

The minister's statement was the subject of a special discussion in the Lok Sabha with members cutting across party affiliation describing the U.S. Senate move as blackmail tactics to force India to toe the American line. They cautioned the United States that if the proposed amendment is carried through, relations between the two countries will take a turn for the worse. Initiating the discussion, Mr Jaipal Reddy, Janata, accused the U.S. of deliberately turning a Nelson's eye to Pakistan's weapons-oriented nuclear program. During the discussion, an opposition member said the latest move is a continuation of tht hostile attitude of the U.S. and warned the government that the U.S. Administration would blackmail the country on its fascination for high technology. Expressing strong revulsion at the Senate committee's move, ruling party members described it as an affront to India's self-respect.

Giving clarifications on the statement in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Natwar Singh said the Senate committee's move is totally unacceptable to India. The unanimous feeling of the Indian Parliament is that what the United States is doing is uncalled for. The minister said the U.S. ambassador, in a letter delivered to him yesterday, said that the U.S. President and the Administration were aware of India's serious concern over the issue. The letter said U.S. Administration gives importance to improving bilateral relations.

Earlier, several members expressed concern over the Senate committee's recommendation. Their suggestions included reduced dependence on U.S. assistance and review of our nuclear option.

Commentary Assails U.S. Aid to Pakistan

BK071401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Dec 87

[S.C. Bhatia commentary: "Shock from Washington"]

[Text] New Delhi has reacted with shock and disbelief to the moves in the last few days on Capitol Hill in Washington, the seat of the American Congress, affecting India and Pakistan. This vital organ of the American state power, obviously aided by the Reagan administration, has taken two momentous decisions. First, the two houses—the Senate and the House of Representatives—have done away with the 2-month-old bar on American economic and military aid to Pakistan. The aid stopper was occasioned by the discovery in the United States itself of a Pakistan-aided conspiracy to smuggle nuclear weapons materials. A Pakistani called Arshad Parvez was caught in the act and is now in an American prison awaiting trial. Islamabad has, of course, denied any connection with Parvez. But then who was he going to benefit by trying to take illegally out of the United States stuff like nuclear weapons grade steel? Was it to be sold like smuggled watches and electronic goods in the bazaars of Lahore and Karachi?

Some such questions had bothered the American Congress when it stopped the more than $4 billion aid package to Pakistan. Now that ban is off. While doing this favor to its ally and watchdog in the Gulf, the American Congress, through a Senate committee, has sought to equate India and Pakistan in the matter of nuclear development programs. It is known the world over that India's program is a peaceful one; otherwise, India would not have opted for it after she successfully exploded a nuclear device as far back as 1974. On the other hand, through the admission of the Pakistani nuclear messiah, Dr A.Q. Khan, and the mounting evidence in the possession of the Americans themselves, Islamabad has embarked on a nuclear weapons program. It was this apprehension which made the Congress slam a temporary ban on all aid to Pakistan. Now the Senate Appropriations Committee has sought to lay down rules for transfer of high technology to India and Pakistan and for American support to World Bank and other multilateral aid to them. The Senate committee has prescribed that these two matters would be conditional on India adhering to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. So, on the one hand, the United States closes its eyes to the

Pakistani nuclear bomb which is almost ready, and on the other, it makes difficult for India to pursue her peaceful nuclear energy program.

India has always resisted American and other pressures for signing the Nonproliferation Treaty. New Delhi is firmly of the view that it is discriminatory and leaves the big powers free to indulge in explosions while the others, like India, wanting to use nuclear power for development, are inhibited. India has, therefore, refused to sign the treaty and the latest American moves will no more do the trick for Washington than its earlier arm twisting. What is, however, at stake is American faith and the value of Washington's word. Recently, when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was there and had a detailed discussion with President Reagan, he was assured of American readiness for high technology transfer, including a super computer for weather forecasting and some sophisticated technology for defense. But quick on the heels of that assurance comes the Senate move which is like a stab in the back. Mr Gandhi had told the Indian media on his return that this country's ties with the United States were on the mend. Now, virtually Washington has gone back on its word unless, of course, the Senate committee is overruled by the full House.

The United States President wants to appear as a tough guy when he meets the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, tomorrow, that is Tuesday. So, he and his friends in the Congress removed the temporary shackles on aid to Pakistan which is a conduit for American arms to the Afghan rebels and an American policeman in the Gulf. The American motivations are understandable, although they are not exactly noble. But why take a swipe at India's vital interests and go back on the assurances given to the prime minister of India a few weeks earlier on high tech transfer. India has friends in the World Bank and elsewhere. The United States is not that powerful in the bank as to block aid to India which is vital for her development. The basic question is, however, on Washington's South Asia policy and the policy of friendship for this country it possesses. It has no business to equate the bomb of Islamabad with India's peaceful nuclear program. Clearly, the recent improvement in Indo-U.S. relations is in jeopardy even before it began to resume some concrete shape.

Pakistani Buildup on Jammu Border Reported

BK071034 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Jammu, Nov. 27 (UNI)—Pakistan is building new "defence channels" and has established many new observation towers with American surveillance equipment along the international border in the Jammu region.

These towers have been set up about 100 metres from the border in violation of ground rules. Pakistani authorities brushed aside India's objections, saying: "We do not recognise any international border in Jammu and Kashmir, as it is disputed territory."

A group of newsmen which visited the Ranbirsingh Pura sector today discovered that Pakistani troops were constructing a 10-km long "defence channel" and pill boxes from Surakhpur to Ooche Bans, at a distance of 100 metres to 1,000 metres from the border posts on this side.

A 33-metre-high observation tower has been erected about 30 metres from the border, facing an octroi post. Another tower has been erected 60 metres away, facing Dudhwar post.

According to established ground rules, such posts have to be at least 450 metres away from the border.

Meanwhile, a BSF [Border Security Force] spokesman told newsmen that 50 Pakistani spies were arrested from this sector this year.

Deaths Reported in Darjeeling Strike

BK070916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, a group of GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporters ambushed the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] party at Sureni Bazaar in Mirik police station of Darjeeling district last night. Two GNLF supporters were killed when the CRPF returned the fire. DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police, Darjeeling range, Mr Handa, told our Kurseong correspondent that the CRPF party recovered three firearms and large quantity of cartridges, bombs, and dynamite. The situation in Sureni Bazaar is still tense. The additional police force has been posted in the area.

Meanwhile, normal life in Ghum, Sauhia Pahuri, and Mirik in hill areas of Darjeeling is completely dislocated since this morning following the start of 108-hour bundh [strike]. All shops, business establishments, government offices, and banks are closed and vehicular traffic is off the road. The call for the bundh has been given by GNLF in protest against the alleged disappearance of a GNLF leader from Mirik.

Daily Says Gandhi Has No Plans To Visit PRC

BK061045 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 87 pp 1, 11

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Nov 26—Despite the perceptible improvement in Sino-Indian relations following the last round of official level talks here, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has no plans of visiting China in the near future to resolve the boundary dispute.

The invitation to Mr Gandhi, first extended to him by former Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang in New York last year and since repeated by Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing seeks,

according to China, to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough after years of stalemated negotiations. There is no urgency about availing of it because a mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question is still not in sight.

There are many bridges to cross before the way is paved for a successful prime ministerial visit, sources said. The state of Sino-Indian relations, despite exudation of warmth on both sides, is not such as to ensure that positive results shall flow from such a trip which could win the Indian people's approval.

Chinese expectations that such a visit may lead to the signing of an agreement delimiting the boundaries and, later, setting up a joint boundary commission to demarcate the alignments and marking them on the ground are unlikely to materialise soon.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has said that "no quick and easy solutions" to the boundary dispute are possible, has given a new turn to the relations between the two countries by taking them to a new plane where they shall gradually work towards normalising their relations. He has proposed confidence building measures, such as increasing exchanges in areas of trade and culture to create conditions conducive to a permanent settlement of the border issue.

India regards the most positive achievement of the last round of talks, held here from Nov. 15 to 17, 1987 as being the agreement between the two countries that the border issue should be resolved through peaceful negotiations "in accordance with the five principles of peaceful co-existence" and to maintain tranquillity all along the Sino-Indian border. There is no official Chinese version of what transpired at the last round, presumably because there was no movement forward from their standpoint. While the Chinese side succeeded in ending the protracted round of infructuous official negotiations, the Indian side made China agree not to do anything to disturb the prevailing status quo along the border with either forward movement or establishment of new posts for whatever reason. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Discusses Sri Lanka With Colombo Envoy

BK060832 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister held high-level discussions yesterday in New Delhi on the latest situation in Sri Lanka. The Indian high commissioner to that country, Mr J.N. Dixit, was present.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 more civilians have returned to Jaffna from Elephant Pass following the gradual return of normalcy to the area. According to our correspondent, Perumal, 440 tons of essential commodities have been transported to Jaffna town. More multipurpose consumer cooperative societies have been opened to streamline distribution.

Defense Minister on IPKF's Stay in Sri Lanka

BK051114 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that the country's Armed Forces have the capability to repulse aggression from any quarter. They have demonstrated (?it) with courage and determination since independence. Mr Pant was addressing the cadets and officers after the passing out parade at the National Defense Academy, Kharakvasla, today. He said Armed Forces had met threats to international security and offered relief during national calamity.

The defense minister commended the forces for their role in establishing peace in Sri Lanka, and said they are operating with courage and restraint. Mr Pant said all steps are being taken to improve their capability with technological advancement.

Later, addressing newsmen, he said the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] will remain in Sri Lanka as long as it is required. He expressed concern over Pakistan's nuclear program and the American aid to it.

Spokesman Welcomes Sihanouk-Hun Sen Agreement

BK050810 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, and the Khmer leader, Prince Sihanouk, have requested North Korea to mediate between China and Vietnam to end the conflict in the country. This was announced by a spokesman for the prince yesterday. China said that Vietnam must withdraw its troops from Cambodia before it agrees to a settlement there. Both Mr Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk said the outcome of their 3-day talks in France surpassed all expectations.

Meanwhile, India has welcomed the agreement reached between them yesterday. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that India always stood for a political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Pant Inducts Soviet MIG-29 Into Air Force

BK060904 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The sophisticated MIG-29 aircraft joined the Indian Air Force today [6 December]. At a function at Lohagaon Air Base near Pune this morning, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, formally inducted the aircraft in the Air Force. Named as "Baaz" [falcon], the MIG-29 is the latest in the MIG series of striking aircraft. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pant described the event as a major landmark in the modernization of the Air Force. He said any air force in the world would be proud to acquire and operate this aircraft.

Expressing concern over the recent induction of advanced weapons in our neighborhood, Mr Pant said we have to respond adequately to the situation and maintain our defense forces in a state of adequate preparedness.

Appreciating the Soviet assistance, Mr Pant said that the USSR has once again demonstrated its friendship and goodwill toward India.

The chief of the Air Force, Air Chief Marshal de la Fontaine, and the Soviet ambassador, Mr Ryzkhov, were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

India is the only country to which the USSR has supplied the latest model of MIG-29.

Indigenously Built Submarines Within 2 Years
BK041304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMt 4 Dec 87

[Text] The Indian Navy will have indigenously-built sophisticated submarines within 2 years. Vice Admiral S. Jain of the Western Command told All India Radio correspondent Faqrul Naqbi in Bombay that the production of 2 SSK type submarines is underway at the Mazagon docks in collaboration with West Germany. He said under the technology transfer agreement India acquired two SSK—INS [Indian Naval Ships] "Shishumar" and INS "Shankush" from West Germany this year. These submarines have the unique capability of hunting and destroying another submarine.

Iran

Majlis Speaker on Rumored Offensive, Summit
LD080737 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Dec 8, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani ended a four-day visit to the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz Monday night after meetings with the personnel of the armed forces of the province. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani was accompanied by senior military commanders and a number of other officials.

Speaking to IRNA before leaving here he said that during the tour he visited Guatr [as received], Chah Bahar, Sirri, Abu Musa, the islands Greater and Lesser Tonb-e, Hengam, Larak, Qeshm, Hormoz, and the port of Jask and inspected military facilities in those areas.

He said he is confident the U.S. will not dare launch a major act of mischief and that if it does it will regret it.

After having visited the Iranian forces on the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, he said, any regional or foreign power which should wish to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran is certainly going out of its mind.

The Iranian forces are ready to defend the country, he said, but added that Iran is not interested in such encounters.

On mobilization of volunteer forces in the form of the Mohammad (SAW) Corps Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also representative of the imam to the Supreme Defence Council said that the idea is to have enough contingency forces ready for deployment at all times.

On recent reports that mobilization and despatch to war fronts of the Mohammad (SAW) Corps is preparation for a massive offensive, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that any operation will be launched whenever considered necessary.

On recent developments in Iran-France relations, he said that the changes show that France is dissatisfied with its past practices.

On the meeting of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. leaders, he said it is too early to judge now, but he said it is obvious that their differences are rooted and cannot be narrowed by rhetoric. He said that it will be a positive development if the two sides are able to take steps towards nuclear disarmament and detente.

Khomeyni Approves Regulating Public Services
LD071154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] In a letter to the imam of the ummah, Mr Sarhadizadeh, minister of labor and social affairs, has requested the imam's views on the introduction of obligatory regulations for those units which make use of state and public facilities and services. The text of the Mr Sarhadizadeh's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the honorable leader of the Islamic Revolution, his holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty shadow continue to remain on earth. While wishing good health and long life for the honorable imam, and in the hope of a speedy victory for the fighters of Islam against global blasphemy, in view of the nature of this ministry's work in the manufacturing and service units in the private sector, would Your Holiness please guide this ministry on the following question: Is it possible to introduce obligatory regulations for those units which use state and public facilities and services such as water, electricity, telephone, fuel, foreign currency, raw materials, ports, roads, jetties, the administrative and banking systems, etc., whether they have used these facilities in the past, continue to use them now, or have recently started to use them? May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Abolqasem Sarhadizadeh, minister of labor and social affairs

The imam of the ummah's reply is as follows: In His exalted name. In both cases, that is, for the past and present, the government can introduce and implement obligatory regulations.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 7 December 1987

Tehran Cites Reports of Exiles' Roundups
LD071938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Citing UPI, the Central News Unit reported today that dozens of Iranian counterrevolutionaries [in France] have been arrested and orders for their expulsion have been issued. According to a French Interior Ministry statement, dozens of members of the Monafeqin [hypocrites, a term used for members of the Mojahedin] organization were arrested in the Paris region at dawn today. The statement said that those arrested were carrying out militant actions which seriously undermined public order.

The statement also said that when the identity of those who have been arrested is established, they will be expelled from France on the basis of Article 26 of the decree of 2 November 1985, which was issued regarding the entry and residence of foreign nationals in France. The statement noted that those arrested are being currently under detention.

France Suffers 'Consequences' of Embassy War
PM071459 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Nov 87 pp 3, 20

[Editorial by Yunes Shokrkhah: "Paris, From the War of the Embassies to Better Relations With Tehran"]

[Text] French television technician Jean-Louis Normandin and journalist Roger Vaquez, who have been held hostage by various Lebanese groups in Lebanon for 20 and 10 months respectively, have been released. There are still two more French diplomats, Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, and another journalist by the name of Jean-Paul Kaufman being held by Lebanese groups.

French Prime Minister Chirac welcomed the two French hostages at Orly Airport and said that he regarded the two Frenchmen's release as a sign of improvement in solving the difficulties in relations between Paris and Tehran. Meanwhile, LE MONDE said that the release of the two men was a propaganda ploy launched by Iran before the upcoming French presidential election.

The clouding of relations between Iran and France, which began with the war of the embassies, has taken a different turn with the lifting of accusations against a member of the Iranian Embassy, after a crisis which lasted 6 months. The metal barriers around the Iranian Embassy have been removed and the armed police holding submachine guns and wearing flakjackets have left the immediate area around the embassy.

The release of the Iranian diplomat, which followed the release of the French hostages, has become known in political circles as the "French bribe." Jean-Marie Lupin, the ultra right-wing French leader, says openly: "Chirac has given a bribe."

Meanwhile, the French Government prosecutor says that the Iranian diplomat had not violated the law; therefore, there was no excuse for arresting him.

In addition to the war of the embassies, another hurdle in relations between Iran and France is that France has to pay the $1 billion that it owes to Tehran. Last year only $300 million of this was paid back to Iran. However, the French finance minister says that the Iranian diplomat's release was part of "very sensitive" actions which have not yet been concluded. Now, one must ask what caused these "very sensitive" actions to be undertaken.

When the French prosecutor states that the Iranian diplomat had no charges against him, should one not ask why France blamed Iran for the various tendencies that exist in that country's political arena? Why did it start the war of the embassies? If the French prosecutor is right in saying that the Iranian diplomat was innocent, why was this 6-month crisis started by France?

Contrary to Chirac's claims, France at the moment is facing a deadlock: The admission that the Iranian diplomat is innocent is an admission to the crisis-seeking nature of France's policies. Even if the French regarded the Iranian diplomat as guilty, they could not prevent his release from being called a "bribe."

The truth is that the affair of the Iranian diplomat was only a French excuse to start a political war of the embassies, together with Britain, in order to lessen the political-military pressures on the United States in the Persian Gulf. Perhaps the U.S. moral defeat in the Persian Gulf will serve as a lesson to France. Perhaps France has come to recognize the truth which the Lebanese groups have always proclaimed: The French hostages were hostages to France's Middle East policy.

LE MONDE links the hostages' release to Iranian efforts to affect the 1988 French presidential election, and this in itself proves Iran's might. Perhaps it would be better if LE MONDE analyzed the reasons why the war of the embassies was started by France, which is now suffering the bitter consequences.

In addition to internal differences, Paris now has to await Washington's wrath, which will most likely be instigated by Britain, France's partner in the war of the embassies.

Musavi Opens Country's First Facsimile Center

LD070919 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi opened here Monday the first facsimile center for in-country dissemination of printed material.

Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Mohammad Gharazi, Minister of Defence Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali and several other officials attended the ceremony.

After a briefing by Post, Telegraph and Telephone Minister Mohammad Gharazi Prime Minister Musavi said that telecommunications is a principal lifeblood to the country the absence of which would seriously damage the normal conduct of everyday operations.

Musavi said that communications not only contribute to the country's economy but it interlinks the nation, transfers cultural and ideological messages and strengthens unity among the people.

Despite economic sanctions and bottlenecks, premier said, the expansion of communication systems, long since needed in this country, has been possible due to the efforts of Iranian experts. He said the results of such efforts would neutralize the impact of the economic sanctions against Iran by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Musavi said despite being involved in an unwanted war with the Iraqi Government, the Islamic Republic has never overlooked modern technology and is committed to improving its technological capacity.

Mohammad Hashemi Reappointed Media Director

LD052237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, in the new round of the first session of the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Mohammad Hashemi was reappointed managing director of this organization.

Meets With Soviet Envoy

LD071010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Tehran, accompanied by that country's cultural attache, met with Mohammad Hashemi, executive director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Sunday afternoon.

In this meeting, the Soviet ambassador commented on the political and cultural relations between the two countries: Despite differences in our ideological viewpoints, we believe that our relations should expand on the basis of mutual respect, good-neighborliness, and noninterference in each other's affairs. Referring to the views of his government on Persian Gulf issues, he stressed the need for the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO fleets from the Persian Gulf.

The executive director of the Voice and Vision then commented on the duty of ambassadors to have a thorough understanding of the country hosting their mission based upon realities. He emphasized that this thorough understanding can be the basis for the adoption and correction of strategies by their countries in long-term bilateral relations. He asserted: Therefore, in view of the fact that your mission is in the revolutionary country of Iran, you have an important duty on your shoulders. The Islamic Revolution of Iran is a movement which is not limited to the borders of our country. Not only has it influenced most countries in the world, but as you know it has also affected East-West relations. In fact, it has become an important parameter in the political equations of the world and has even upset many international equations. Therefore, your duty as the representative of a country which is leading one of the two world blocs is a sensitive and important duty. You should gain a careful and realistic understanding of our revolution and our people and should convey it to the officials of your country so that it can provide the basis for pursuing correct and healthy relations between the two countries.

Mr Hashemi emphasized: One of the most basic dimensions of this revolution is its anti-imperialist policy, which can primarily be seen in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East region. As you know, the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, under the pretext of safeguarding the security of international shipping, has been an excuse for protecting Saddam. Moreover, as admitted by Western sources, it has resulted in increased insecurity in the shipping lanes and increased tension in the region. Therefore, it can clearly be seen that the U.S. claim regarding the safeguarding of security is an empty one and that, in practice, it is a move aimed at helping Saddam's regime and saving it.

In conclusion, the executive director of the Voice and Vision emphasized the decisive determination and firm resolve of the people and officials of the Islamic Republic to continue the war until the downfall of Saddam. He said: The cutting off of support by foreign powers for Saddam will expedite the achievement of this goal.

Construction Jihad Minister Leaves for PRC

LD062353 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—Minister of Construction Jihad Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh left here Sunday for Beijing at the head of a delegation, at the invitation of China's Ministry of Agriculture.

The Iranian delegation will hold talks with ranking Chinese officials on expansion of Tehran-Beijing ties and cooperation.

The delegation is also scheduled to visit China's projects in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, rural industries as well as water installations.

Oil Minister on Falling Dollar, OPEC Session

LD071958 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7 IRNA—The depreciation of the U.S. dollar has in effect decreased oil prices by two dollars per barrel, said Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Monday, adding that the current oil price (18 dlrs. p/b) is in fact worth only 16 dollars a barrel.

Addressing a press conference here on the eve of the 82nd meet of the 13-member organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, the Iranian oil minister stressed that OPEC should compensate for the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, in order to stabilize the oil price at 18 dollars p/b.

Aqazadeh said that the entire reserves of oil producing countries in the world should not be at the mercy of such an instable, fluctuating foreign currency as the U.S. dollar.

The most important position Iran will take at the forthcoming OPEC meet is to explore ways to making good on the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, he said.

Iran will favor any production ceiling guaranteed to stabilize the oil price, said the oil minister. For example, he added, if the oil price increases to 20 dlrs p/b, Iran will favor a ceiling which can stabilize the price at 20 dollars p/b.

On the replacement of the U.S. dollar with an alternate monetary system for oil dealings, Aqazadeh said that the Islamic Republic believes that a basket of currencies should be chosen, so that if one of these foreign currencies fluctuates, the others could compensate for it. This basket could be SDR, or Special Drawing Right, he added.

Aqazadeh, commenting on the effects of the Amman Arab summit on the oil market, predicted that certain OPEC Arab members might propose the increase in output ceiling rather than the price p/b, in a bid to flood the oil market and affect Iran's revenues, even if such a move entails further losses for them.

It is quite understood these states, ever-ready to serve U.S. interests would try to prevent the organization from compensating for the dollar depreciation, Aqazadeh foresaw.

The oil minister castigated Kuwait for its glutting of world oil markets which caused the price to drop to its lowest level from 22 dlrs p/b.

He also denounced Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates for their mischiefs to destabilize the oil market by violating their OPEC-assigned quotas.

The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states prefer U.S. interests to those of their own peoples, and this is what the Islamic Republic has always noted, he said.

The oil minister lauded other OPEC members such as Indonesia, Venezuela, Algeria, Libya, Gabon, Nigeria and Ecuador for their efforts to stabilize oil prices. These countries have never tried to destabilize the oil market, he added.

On the likelihood of increase in Iraq's quotas, Aqazadeh said the Islamic Republic strongly opposes such an increase even by one single barrel, noting that Iraq should observe the organization's decisions and that production capability should not be a criteria for quotas.

In conclusion, the minister, said that boycotting of Iranian oil by the U.S. and France has failed to have the least effect on the volume of Iran's oil exports. He noted that Iran is intending to diversify ways of exporting its oil as a necessary measure.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 7 December in a similar report adds: "The oil minister described the accusations of the Kuwaiti and Saudi regimes about the sale of cheap oil by Iran as hostile pre-session propaganda in order to neutralize Iran's proposals to OPEC. He also described Iraq's claim to have increased its level of oil reserves as sheer lies.

"Regarding the sale of Iranian oil, he said: The sale of our oil is in keeping with the OPEC allocation. The oil minister added: The attempts which have been made to diversify the means of exporting Iranian oil from other places in the Persian Gulf, as well as through the Soviet Union and Turkey, are continuing, and we will try to adopt the capabilities for exporting oil in keeping with the increased market demand for oil in the 1990's."]

Leaves for Vienna Meeting

LD080946 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—Iranian Oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh heading a delegation flew to Vienna Tuesday for the 82nd meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The OPEC's meeting is to open in Vienna Wednesday.

Commentary on Larijani Talks at United Nations
LD051553 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his third round of talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, our country's deputy minister of foreign affairs, referred to the massive presence of the fighters of Islam on the battlefields and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot wait indefinitely for justice to be done. Regarding his meeting with the president of the Security Council, scheduled for this month, he said: In our visits to the United Nations we always refer to the Security Council as the council responsible for condemning and stopping aggression according to the first clause of the UN Charter.

According to the first clause of the UN Charter, this organization is bound to embark on collective and coordinated action to stop any kind of aggression, so that through such an action it may bring about lasting peace. The weak and ineffective measures adopted by the United Nations in connection with this clause of the Charter not only have caused the Iraqi aggression against our country to continue, but have also brought about direct and unprincipled support from the United States and reactionary countries for the aggressionist Iraqi regime.

For example, on the one hand, the first clause of the UN Charter invites members to act upon a coordinated measure to stop aggression, and on the other hand, we are practically a witness to the covert and overt assistance to the Iraqi regime by a nubmer of UN members, such as the United States, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

In order to end military aggression, the United Nations is committed by its Charter to send an investigative mission to the two belligerent countries to determine the aggressor. This it must do prior to acting upon any other measures. After appraising these investigations, the United Nations must then name the aggressor. However, after more than 7 years of the imposed war, the United Nations has still not done so.

Such indifference on the part of the United Nations to the explicit laws of the UN Charter has been instrumental in the Iraqi regime's being more aggressive in violating international laws. Therefore, in addition to military aggression, it has committed other illegal acts, such as the use of chemical weapons and the bombing of residential areas.

After the conclusion of the third round of talks between Mr Larijani and the UN secretary general, the U.S. State Department announced that Iran still refuses to accept Resolution 598 of the Security Council and then demanded that an arms embargo be imposed on the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. State Department is accusing Iran of violating Resolution 598 at a time when the United States itself was the first to violate this resolution. Shortly after the approval of the resolution, the United States violated the fifth clause of the resolution by bringing troops to the Persian Gulf to calm the region.

These U.S. moves, designed to impose arms sanctions against the Islamic Republic, are in reality intended to force the Islamic ummah of Iran to compromise. Nevertheless, as the authorities of our country have announced, to attain a just and lasting peace before everything else, the aggressor must be recognized and punished.

Montazeri Meets Foreign Islamic Leaders
LD052008 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Qom, Dec 5, IRNA—Future leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri Friday received several prominent ulema of the Muslim world in separate meetings and exchanged views on the affairs of the Ummah.

The dignitaries who called separately on the ayatollah were head of Lebanon's Tawhid Islamic Movement Shaykh Sa'id, Sha'ban, Hizballah leaders Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, (Sayid 'Abbas Musavi) and (Sayyid Baqr Hammudi), Pakistani Shi'ite Leader (Mawlana Sayid Arif Hussain Hussaini) and Afghan (Alim Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur).

Meanwhile Mashhad Friday prayer leader Ayatollah Shirazi also met Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday.

Montazeri Meets Judges, Disclipinary Officials
LD061802 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Dec. 6, IRNA—Future leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri received a group of judges and officials of the administrative disciplinary board here Saturday.

In the meeting Ayatollah Montazeri noted that Islam attaches great importance to judicial affairs and issues relevant to the lives, property and reputation of the people.

Such issues, said the Ayatollah, should be handled with utmost care, so that nobody's right is infringed upon. Behaviour of the officials towards the public should be in a way that all serve the Islamic revolution with faith and dedication and not out of fear, added Ayatollah Montazeri.

Musavi Promises More Facilities to Farmers

LD071850 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA—Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, accompanied by a group of experts from the Agricultural Extension Organisation and model farmers and stock breeders from all over the country, met Premier Hoseyn Musavi here Monday.

Prime Minister Musavi told the visitors that their dedicated efforts are a source of honor for Islam and will strengthen people's rule over their own destiny.

"Our strongest weapon is unity of people and their social and political awareness which disappoints the enemies of Islam and encourages the (country's) authorities," Musavi said.

The premier, noting that part of the country's budget is spent on defence needs to cut off the hands of foreigners, stressed that when the Iraqi-imposed war ends more facilities will be put at the disposal of farmers and the growth of agriculture will accelerate.

Talks Open With FRG Economic Official

LD060211 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 5 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—The first round of talks between the visiting West German delegation and Iran's economic and finance affairs officials was held here Saturday.

Head of Economic Relations Department for the Middle East at the West German Economics Ministry Burck Hardt, and head of International Relations Bureau of the Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry Amin Daliri, led the West German and Iranian delegations, respectively, in the talks.

The two sides have established specialized committees in order to discuss commerical, oil, industrial, mining, technical, scientific, financial, economic, as well as cultural and art cooperations.

The outcome of these committees' talks will be drafted by heads of the two countries' delegations as a letter of understanding, which would later be presented for ratification to the joint session of Iranian and West German economic affairs ministers, to be held in Tehran in the near future.

The letter will be the first one which would be inked by the two countries after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979.

The German delegation arrived here Friday night.

Friday Imams Instructed on Majlis Elections

LD061142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] On the eve of the third Majlis elections, the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams, after receiving permission from the imam of the ummah, issued a statement. The statement emphasizes that the Friday imams who wish to run for election should resign and sets the deadline for their resignation as 10 December.

The Central News Unit reports that the statement issued by the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams also thanks Friday imams throughout the country for their sincere service and efforts. It adds: The various headquarters for holding Friday prayers in the country are dutybound not to use those who are running for election in their Friday prayers district as pre-sermon speakers. Otherwise, the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams will take the necessary action.

Defense Industries Official Interviewed

LD071149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Interview with Engineer Tavalla'i, deputy managing director of the Defense Industries Company, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear listeners, we are at present with brother Engineer Tavalla'i, deputy managing director of Defense Industries. While thanking him for giving us his time, we ask him to tell us about the mission and performance of Defense Industries in the past few years. What effects has the absence of foreign specialists had on the performance of Defense Industries?

[Tavalla'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the ummah, the brave fighters of Islam, the Guards Corps, the Mobilization forces, and brother soldiers. The main duties of Defense Industries are to supply the defense requirements of the Armed Forces and the security organizations of the Islamic Republic through manufacture, repair, renovation, and industrial research. This organization comprises various industries, including the manufacture of assorted weapons, missiles, ammunition, explosives, repair and renovation of aircraft, naval vessels, military vehicles, communications and electronic equipment, and also repair of the Armed Forces' computers. [passage omitted]

At present, the production lines of the Defense Industries manufacture more than 300 types of products. For example, before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, in 1977-78 Defense Industries—which was Military Industries then—at the height of its production capacity, that is, compared with the previous years, produced only 15 types of ammunition, a very small figure. However, at present it produces more than 50 types of ammunition in accordance with its present production plan. Regarding missiles [mushak], it produces only RPG-7's but, thank God, the present production plan consists of more than 10 types of short- and medium-range missiles.

The production figures show that the trend of increased production has been preserved and that our production level has not reached the required peak. However, they do show a 40-percent annual increase. This increased production has saved us a great deal of foreign currency. Concerning expanded production, major investment projects have been planned in Defense Industries. Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, there was a large number of foreign specialists in the organization to whom all these projects had been assigned. After the victory of the revolution, these projects were left unfinished and all foreigners—in one of our sister organizations alone there were more than 1,000—were expelled. However, owing to the relentless efforts of committed officials and specialists, these projects have been completed. The production lines are in operation. Some 120 new projects were also started after the victory of the revolution, more than 50 percent of which have been successfully completed and are operational.

In its aviation section Defense Industries has proved that it does not need foreign specialists for major repair work on various types of fighter and cargo aircraft and helicopters and the manufacture of required parts. So far, it has been able to supply the needs of the Armed Forces.

In the electronics section Defense Industries has had outstanding success in supplying major defense equipment, such as electronic equipment, defense systems, radar and missile systems, kamikaze [entehari] and explosive systems, and remote control equipment.

[Correspondent] What effect have the military and economic sanctions imposed by world arrogance had on the trend of self-sufficiency, increased military production, and the supply of the fighters' needs? What plans do you have to combat this enemy plot?

[Tavalla'i] As you know, when one is subjected to military or economic sanctions this results in the blossoming of talent and creativity. If there is good management to guide and enlighten these talents, the sum total of these talents can undoubtedly play a constructive role in the economic, industrial, or military infrastructure. [passage omitted] Because of the requirements of the fronts and the military embargo, Defense Industries laid plans accordingly so that it could supply all the fighters' requirements. Considering the expertise and experience of the organization, most of the plans have been accomplished. At present, with regard to a large proportion of the requirements, as far as weapons and ammunition are concerned, the organization has had admirable achievements in various fields, such as aviation, electronics, the naval industries, ammunition production, equipment, and the weapons and missile group.

Commentary on Self-Sufficiency in Arms Industry

LD081443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1053 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Station commentary: "Tapping the Potential by Practice"]

[Excerpts] The news of Iran's access to missile-manufacturing technology and the successful test of a surface-to-surface missile, which was reported last week, revealed the immense potential of our country's committed and specialist forces.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed the strategy to the effect that whenever commitment is allied with knowhow, innovative ideas blossom and people become more determined to live independently and to seek ways to accelerate their move toward independence. What has been achieved in the last few years in gaining accesss to weapons technology and increasing the country's industrial capability, particularly in the military sphere, proves two basic points: First, when the sincere specialist forces are supported, it will not be too difficult to achieve industrial self-sufficiency in various spheres; second, gaining access to technology is not done through the import of technology alone. Even if there is a need to import technology, this is limited to the complementary stage for the sake of coordination with technological developments in the world and learning from other countries' experiments.

It is said that foreign companies were demanding a high price and warning of long delays in carrying out research and manufacturing the special transistors used in the "Hawk" missiles. In addition, they would not guarantee to manufacture standard transistors. However, it is reported that our country's committed and faithful experts in the military industries have successfully completed the research and manufacturing phase of transistors for "Hawk" missiles in the shortest possible time. They achieved the desired result without foreign assistance. This accomplishment generated much hope and negated the idea that it will be impossible to gain access to modern technology, particularly the military industry, without relying on foreign assistance.

The prime minister said in a speech that the Islamic Republic of Iran can now manufacture the most sensitive systems by relying on its own modern military technology. He stated: In addition to the facilities allocated to Defense Industries in the 1988-89 budget, other facilities have been provided for the country's industrial

sector to assist them in this sphere. As the government has always encouraged industrial research in arms manufacture, there will be no bottlenecks in this respect. [passage omitted]

Weapons play a fateful role in the political developments of the region and the world today, and the type of weapons required by a country can determine the degree of that country's dependence on the manufacturing sources. A large part of the heavy burden of debt borne by the Third World is related to arms purchases. In these circumstances it is thus essential and vital to achieve self-reliance in Defense Industries, in order to guarantee our independence and freedom from domination and bullying, and to enable us to defend our religious and national aspirations. The Muslim nation of Iran, in its 9 years of heroic defense, by relying on faith has gained some proud victories and has in practice proved the superiority of faith and determination over weapons. However, if this faith is combined with the power of arms and if the weapons are handed to the believers to implement justice, its outcome will undoubtedly be widespread and the road toward reaching the goal will be shortened.

Armenians, Assyrians Ready To Join Fronts

NC080750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] The Armenians of Azarbayjan and the Assyrians of Tabriz have issued separate statements in which they express support for the 10-point directive of the Supreme War Support Council and announce the readiness of the Armenians and Assyrians of Azarbayjan to go to the fronts.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Missile Hits Iraqi Plane

LD080847 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—An Iraqi MIG-21 fighter was hit by a Stinger missile of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps near Al-Faw and downed in the Persian Gulf waters at 15:15 hours local time (11:45 GMT), Monday.

The IRGC headquarters in a statement here Tuesday said that parts of the wreckage of the plane had been recovered near the scene and that search operations are now under way to find the pilot of the plane who was seen bailing out immediately after his plane was hit.

Second Plane Downed

LD081046 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran Dec. 8, IRNA—An Iraqi Sukhoy-22 plane was hit by the anti-aircraft artillery fire of Iranian Army and downed east of Umm Qasr at 15:10 hours local time (11:40 gmt), Monday.

The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces in a statement here said that Iranian fighter bombers pounded Iraqi positions and concentration centers east of Basra and in the operational theater opposite Sar Dasht at 08:50 and 11:05 hours local time, Tuesday.

The Iranian fighter bombers inflicted heavy loss in life and property to the Iraqi forces and returned safely to their base, the statement added.

Pakistan

Landi Kotal Garrison Hit by Afghan Missile

BK071538 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Dec 7 (AFP)—One soldier died and about two dozen were injured, some seriously, in the first ever Afghan missile attack on a Pakistani garrison town Monday, official sources and witnesses said.

First reports said Afghan planes bombed Landi Kotal, only 12 kilometers (eight miles) from the Khyber Pass border. But officials in the border town said Afghan troops fired ground-to-ground missiles on the garrison around 4.00 P.M. (1100 GMT).

The exact number of injuries was not immediately known as the town was cut off and only ambulances were allowed in to ferry the wounded from the area, witnesses in Peshawar said.

Journalists quoting witnesses said at least 24 people were brought to the military hospital here where one soldier died. At least three more were reported to be in serious condition.

Landi Kotal is the headquarters for the Frontier Force Militia and Army.

Officials said several hundred troops were inside its barracks at the time of the attack.

The missile attack on Pakistani territory was the first since the Soviet-backed regime came to power in Afghanistan in 1979 and relations between the two Moslem neighbours became strained.

The attack came a day before a Washington summit between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union, the two countries most involved in the Afghanistan peace process.

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a border of about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers). Soviet-supplied jets have in the past shelled Pakistani villages on the Moslem guerrillas' route to Afghanistan. Reports quoted by travellers said

Moslem rebels battling Soviet-Afghan troops had stepped up guerrilla activity on the Kabul-Torkham highway shortly after last week's Loya Jirgah (tribal gathering).

Traffic remained suspended after rebels blockaded the highway at several points. Fighting was reportedly heavy at Dakka, Kama Dakka, Monau and Nazian on the Afghan side and sources here said six mujahidin rebels who died in the fighting were brought to Peshawar Sunday.

Sources quoting travellers said people living around Landi Kotal were vacating their villages as Afghan shelling by heavy mortar and long-range cannon entered its fourth day.

Residents in the area had also staged a rally in Landi Kotal against the Afghan artillery fire, they said.

The sources had no information of fatalities or injuries at the garrison.

Planning, Commerce Officials Leave for Delhi

BK071547 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] A Pakistani delegation comprising secretaries of commerce and planning left Islamabad this afternoon for New Delhi where it will attend a secretary-level meeting scheduled to begin on 8 December. This meeting is a followup to a round of talks held between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan in Kathmandu last month.

At the meeting of commerce secretaries, matters relating to bilateral trade will be discussed. The planning secretaries of the two countries will explore, among other things, the possibilities for future cooperation between India and Pakistan in the areas of railways, communications, and agriculture.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Indian Offensive Against LTTE

AFP Report on Fighting

BK041412 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 4 (AFP)—India will not halt its bloody offensive against Sri Lanka Tamil rebels till the dominant separatist group is destroyed as a military force, diplomatic and military sources said here Friday. Indian infantry divisions on the island, with nearly 30,000 soldiers, have halved the 4,000-strong Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), killed 1,100 rebels and destroyed their main armouries since October 10, the sources said.

"The Indian peace-keeping force, with 30 helicopters and gunships, 1,600 paramilitary troops and some naval commandos, is determined to smash the LTTE as a military force," a top diplomatic source here said. Senior military sources said the Indian Army, deployed in Sri Lanka under the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact, had arrested 382 LTTE members and was engaged in combat with some 1,500 to 2,000 rebels in the island's north and east. So far 309 Indian soldiers, including 17 officers, had died and 983 others had been wounded, 60 percent of them seriously. Thirteen soldiers were missing, the sources said.

Some 1,000 civilians have been wounded in the Tamil-dominated northern Jaffna Peninsula, mostly in cross-fire between the Indians and rebels, after New Delhi activated its military operation code-named Pawan to disarm the LTTE, the sources said. They refused to give the number of civilian deaths.

Indian soldiers have isolated the LTTE rebels from their leaders, destroyed communication networks, seized the group's main explosives caches and smashed its military organisation in the peninsula, the sources said. Some 125 LTTE rebels were held after the Indian Government last week offered to rehabilitate those who surrendered with arms. "The rebels are making it easier for the soldiers to catch them as they do not want to lay down arms voluntarily," one source said.

The sources confirmed that LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran had been wounded in combat and that he was holed up in the Jaffna Peninsula. "Our (India's) operations are not aimed against any particular leader. Our aim is to disarm the LTTE to restore normalcy so that elections can be held in the peninsula. But if we find Prabhakaran we will arrest him," one source said. They also refused to give a deadline for ending the military offensive.

Indian General Replaced

BK061240 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi reports that the Indian Government has replaced its general officer commanding in Sri Lanka to expedite its operations to disarm Tamil rebels. Defense Ministry sources said in New Delhi that military strategist Major General Jamil Mehmood has taken over as leader of the 3-month-old offensive to disarm the LTTE. The reports also said that a Defense Ministry spokesman neither confirmed nor denied the change.

A Madras source said that a Sri Lankan Tamil militant group's spokesman said six of its members and two refugees were killed by the LTTE yesterday. A spokesman for the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front [ENDLF] said that Arsan, an ENDLF leader, was among the eight dead. He said LTTE terrorists attacked

his organization's men at Mankulam in the Mullaittivu district, leaving six dead. The LTTE is reported to have killed more than 1,000 rivals in the past 4 years.

Meanwhile, about 5,000 more civilians have returned to Jaffna from Elephant Pass following the gradual return to normalcy in the area. Four hundred and forty tons of essential commodities have been transported to the Jaffna town. More multipurpose cooperative societies have been opened to streamline distribution.

India To Airdrop Food

BK071155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] An Indian Army general said yesterday the government was planning to airdrop food for its soldiers in Sri Lanka to lessen mounting casualties among its Army suppliers. Army Supply Corps [ASC] Director General J.N. Singh, told reporters in New Delhi that experiments were under way to see if it was possible to airdrop cooked or semi-prepared food for soldiers in different terrains. The general said 24 ASC personnel have been killed by mine blasts and sniper fire in the island since 10 October when Indians launched a military offensive to disarm the dominant LTTE separatists. General Singh said ASC drivers suffered their worst casualties while trying to deliver essential supplies to Indian Peacekeeping Force camps in the northern Jaffna Peninsula. Currently food is ferried by ship from the southern Indian port of Madras.

Meanwhile, the Peacekeeping Force yesterday arrested 26 alleged LTTE rebels, including two women activists, in the Eastern Province and seized a large cache of arms and explosives. As the Indian Peacekeeping Force further intensified operations against the LTTE, 25 terrorists and 15,000 rounds of ammunition were captured at Urumpirai, Kopay, and Kondavil during the last 3 days. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the LTTE terrorists along with the large hauls of arms and ammunition continued to be captured on information provided by over 100 LTTE cadres who surrendered last week. Twenty-two pistols were also captured by the IPKF during the raids.

Curfew Hours for Various Areas Announced

BK061358 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Text] Curfew will be relaxed in the areas of Jaffna Peninsula except Velikamam-north and Vadamarachchi from 0800 to 1700 tomorrow. The curfew which came into effect in Mannar and Vavuniya Districts at 1800 this evening will be lifted at 0600 tomorrow morning. Curfew will be imposed in Kilinochchi District, including Mankulam and Mullaitivu, from 1800 this evening to 0600 tomorrow morning. Curfew will be reimposed in these areas from 1800 tomorrow evening.

The curfew which will be imposed in Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts and in the police station areas of Akkaraipattu, Kalmunai and Kammanthurai, Maha Oya, (Sabalathalai), Arantalawa, Pottuvil from 1800 this evening will be relaxed at 0600 tomorrow morning and will be reimposed from 1800 tomorrow evening. The curfew which is now in force in Valachchenai police station area will be relaxed at 0600 tomorrow morning and will be reimposed at 1800 tomorrow evening.

EROS Group Calls for Tripartite Talks

BK071122 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi sources said that a Tamil militant group has called for tripartite talks involving Tamil rebels and the Governments of India and Sri Lanka in a bid to end separatist violence. EROS, a small group allied with the LTTE, said the LTTE should be invited to a tripartite conference along the lines of discussions held in 1985 at Thimpu, Bhutan. The EROS statement also asked New Delhi to come to an understanding with the Tigers so that the political terms of the agreement can be fulfilled in due course. India has refused to talk to the LTTE unless the group renounces violence, surrenders its arms, and accepts the peace pact.